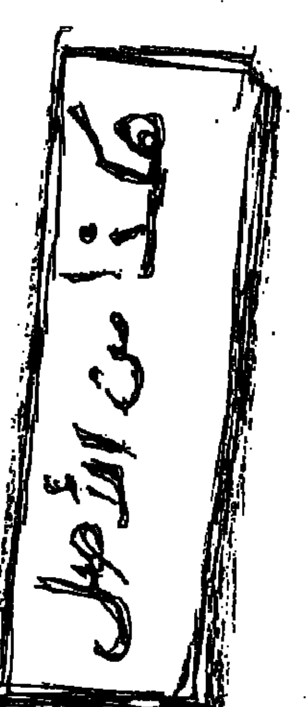


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Thatcher outdoes Schmidt in EEC cash wrangling

The British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, does not enjoy a good Press on the Continent. But she must be credited with both common sense and courage.

She is certainly showing signs of more courage than Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt when his country was footing the lion's share of the EEC bill between 1975 and 1977.

Herr Schmidt complained bitterly about the cost of Common Agricultural Policy and was likewise reputed to be tired of Europe, but in the end he paid up, for the sake of peace and quiet.

West Germany, the richest member of the Nine, was admittedly in a much better position than Britain. The Chancellor could afford to be more flexible and more European than Britain's Iron Lady.

Unlike Mrs Thatcher, he did not face the ire of an Opposition that was out to rap him on account of the high cost of Common Market membership.

Regrettable it may be that she has brought the EEC to the brink of a crisis at a time when the Community ought to have other worries on its mind.

Events in Iran are a threat to peace and to Europe's oil supplies. Disputes over rearmament within Nato are jeopardising the cohesion of the West.

At such a juncture the EEC ought to be in a position to act jointly and decisively rather than bogged down in a dispute over a few billion deutschemarks.

Mrs Thatcher does lay herself open to accusations of showing too much courage on account of political inexperience, though. She is trying to ride a tiger she cannot tame, neither in the EEC nor at home.

At the moment the Common Market is incapable of solving, even in principle, its problem of funding itself in such a way as to ensure that Britain does not have to bear the burden of too heavy a contribution.

Yet a head of anti-European steam is building up in Britain that could well engulf even such a stalwart figure as Mrs Thatcher.

Criticism of her is levelled solely at her tactics. On the issue at stake she is clearly in the right. But she has made her bid too early and in the name of a country that many feel, in view of its low industrial output, has only itself to blame for the greater part of its difficulties.

There is undoubtedly a great deal of truth in this claim. Were Britain able (as West Germany is) to derive benefit from the EEC in industrial exports, payments to the agricultural fund could be written off as export promotion.

Instead Britain is obliged to look on as net contributions to the EEC make short shrift even of North Sea oil revenue. So it is not entirely fair to accuse Whitehall of being entirely unjustified on the issue.

And even if Britain were able (as West Germany was a few years ago) to bear the burden of EEC expenditure, the bankruptcy of Common Agricultural Policy would merely be postponed, not forestalled once and for all.

No less authoritative a person than Bonn Agriculture Minister Josef Ertl recently admitted as much in a speech to the Bavarian Farmers' Union.

The EEC currently spends DM27bn, or 70 per cent of its budget, on agriculture, and Greece, Portugal and Spain have yet to join.

Once they, with their farming communities equally in need of protection and subsidies, have joined the Community, farm surpluses and their cost to the taxpayer will reach astronomic proportions.

Since milk will not be alone in growing more expensive (*oil is sure to follow suit*), EEC financing of farm surpluses is sure to go to the wall sooner or later.

Mrs Thatcher's move may have come at an awkward moment, but it did have the advantage of drawing attention to a state of affairs that is growing more impossible of solution the longer it goes on.

There is little point in burying one's head in a mountain of dried milk powder. Britain has done its arithmetic.

Whitehall has worked out that what might well be called the European disease costs each EEC taxpayer DM370 a year in subsidies, and it sees no point in underwriting a butter mountain that is sold off to the Soviet Union at below world market rates.

It was, after all, promised when Britain joined the EEC that agricultural expenditure would on no account be allowed to exceed 60 per cent of the Common Market's budget and that a fair *solution would be sought if an unacceptable situation arose.*

The situation has certainly arisen, but a fair solution is impossible. The other eight EEC countries were prepared to waive a third of Britain's net payments to Brussels, but no more, as this would have meant substantially higher contributions for them.

The solution need not have entailed financial concessions only. It might, for instance, have taken the form of readiness to spend cash other than on subsidising farm surpluses.

Structural change could be subsidised via the social and regional development funds with a view to establishing agriculture on a sounder footing.

Dieter Schröder
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 3 December 1979)



Setting for the drama: The British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, at the Dublin EEC summit meeting. (Photo: dpa)

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British-German solution on farming ignored

The approach of the British Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, to the Dublin summit of EEC members was so clumsy that the worst may be feared.

At the end, she even admitted that there was virtually no room left for manoeuvre on the big issue, Britain's contributions to the EEC budget.

This is a situation that no head of government should allow to develop.

One option open to her, which she ignored, was to join forces with the European Parliament, with Italy, and perhaps with the Bonn Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, in calling for a completely new-look Common Agricultural Policy geared to cut costs.

Common sense seems wasted on people deeply convinced they are fighting for a just cause, and it almost looks as though Mrs Thatcher must be included in this category.

Justice as she sees it is a matter of the £1bn the other eight EEC countries will owe Britain in 1980 and similar sums that will mount up in subsequent years.

Treaties and Community regulations on which joint agreement once prevailed are now unimportant to Mrs Thatcher.

It is hard to see what can have prompted her, as a parting shot at the Dublin summit, to agree to postpone the problem until the end of March at the latest.

At long last she showed signs of willingness to compromise, but immediately informed the Press her gesture was intended as a very last chance for the others.

She had already stated a conviction that in view of the alarming state of world affairs a profound political crisis must be avoided among the key democracies of Western Europe.

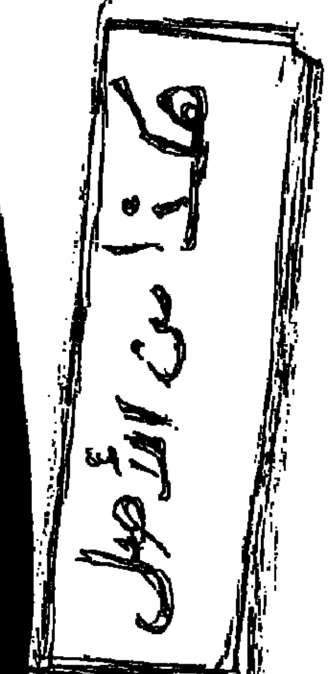
What can possibly then have motivated the ultimatum she issued to her partners in Europe?

The course she adopted in pursuit of her target was, from the outset, similarly inexplicable. She might, for instance, have made common cause with Ireland and Italy, calling for changes in EEC financing to ensure that the economically weakest countries benefit.

The other choice, of calling for a completely new-look Common Agricultural Policy geared to cut costs, could be assured of heartfelt endorsement by a substantial majority of public opinion in Western Europe.

Neither of these solutions might have provided a comprehensive overnight so-

Continued on page 2

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Guessing the game behind Gromyko's ultimatum

What is the meaning of Mr Gromyko's warning that a Nato decision to station new medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe would destroy the basis for future arms control talks?

This is a question asked by politicians in Bonn and elsewhere, almost all having been surprised by the Soviet Foreign Minister's forthright tones.

If words have any meaning (and Mr Gromyko did not mince his), there is now only one way in which the Soviet Union and Nato can continue their dialogue.

Nato would have to postpone the decision on medium-range nuclear armament it is scheduled to reach in mid-December.

It might, of course, be be argued that Mr Gromyko has merely shown again how well the Soviet Union is able to play its hand, raising the stakes in its customary game of diplomatic poker.

Once Nato has decided to go ahead with the arms programme and so demonstrated its political determination to act, the Soviet Union, it is argued, will not sidestep the West's projected offer of negotiations.

Russa's economic difficulties ensure a long-term interest in not accelerating the pace of the arms race. Mr Gromyko's invitation to Chancellor Schmidt and Foreign Minister Genscher to visit Moscow likewise suggests that the Kremlin is in no hurry to revert to cold war.

There is some sense in this argument, but it may underestimate the degree of irritation that prompted weeks of Soviet propaganda culminating in Mr Gromyko's warning.

Viewed from the Kremlin the balance of power looks different from the shape it takes when viewed from Nato headquarters in Brussels.

This is particularly so when weapons such as those proposed for stationing in Europe threaten one's own country not only from another continent or from the sea but from closer range.

The early warning time is shorter, and what is more, missiles are to be stationed in Germany.

But this being so it is hard to believe the Soviet leaders refuse to take seriously the fears to which their new missiles have given rise in Western Europe.

On the other hand Moscow has had bad experience with Western assurances that the West was merely developing and manufacturing more up-to-date weapons systems in order to trade them at the conference table.

Cruise missiles were designed with no more than this aim purportedly in view. They are now part and parcel of the US arsenal and regarded by the Soviet Union as an extremely dangerous weapon on which the Red Army has nothing to match.

So there would need to be negotiations on all these various assessments, but especially on how parity is to be maintained in Europe, now and (especially) in future.

Both sides are undoubtedly most interested in a balance of power in Europe, but it is hard to see as yet what contribution the Soviet Union is prepared to make.

Nato cannot, for one, be expected to delay weapons modernisation any further (unless, that is, Moscow is prepared to follow suit).

So the suggestion, made by Herr Genscher and Herr Schmidt, of an embargo on the manufacture of the two controversial Soviet weapons, must first gain approval.

Second, clarity would need to be established on who the Soviet Union wants to negotiate with. Bonn, for instance, owns no nuclear weapons, wants none and is not planned to be given any.

So Bonn would prefer not to negotiate on this topic. Nor, for other reasons, would France and the remainder of Western Europe.

The simplest solution would be more direct talks with the United States, but Mr Gromyko did not sound enthusiastic. This could herald substantial delay.

No more than hints have so far come out on a third major issue. Mr Gromyko in Bonn and other Soviet spokesmen before him have suggested that talks on a pull-back or even a reduction in numbers of the controversial arms might be possible.

But this would only be possible on the understanding that the West postponed any decision on modernisation.

Unless satisfactory answers are given on these three issues, Nato will have no option but to stand by its present position.

If, on the other hand, the Soviet Union gets down to brass tacks and shows it is willing to oblige seriously and fast, especially with regard to further modernisation of its weapons systems, a new situation would arise.

Europe in general and Bonn in particular could then urge at least the inclusion of a postponement provision in the December Nato ruling. The North Atlantic pact is due to meet again in spring, when all is said and done.

If the Soviet Union were not to more in the meantime it would bear responsibility for the consequences. The risk Nato ran would be slight.

Development of at least one of the two new weapons has yet to be completed. Besides, rearmament is more a matter of psychology than of military engineering.

Neither the SS-20 missile nor the Backfire bomber can be wiped out by Western defence systems.

A deterrent threat or threat of subsequent retaliation is the best that could be expected.

Neither would be of much consolation to people in Western Europe once the nuclear trigger had been pulled.

Yet, were we now to revert to cold war in Europe because opportunities to negotiate had been neglected, the consequences would be incalculable.

There are other unsolved problems around the world that will keep both European and US breath bated.

Hans Gerlach

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 26 November 1979)

Germans heed warning and leave Iran

West Germans are leaving Iran in increasing numbers as tension and uncertainty continues in the wake of the student takeover of the US embassy.

The German colony reported on 25 November that well over 100 West Germans had flown home since the crisis began.

They were said to be paying increasing heed to the West German embassy's advice to leave.

At the time of the US embassy takeover by militant Muslim students, West German embassy staff reckoned there were still about 1,500 West German nationals in Iran. *dpa*

(Handelsblatt, 26 November 1979)

Continued from page 1

lution to Britain's finance problem, but Whitehall would at least not have been on its own with its purportedly just demand.

This all-out attack on the other eight, lacking as it does the slightest positive consideration for the Community's future, has led to a paradoxical state of affairs.

British public opinion backs Mrs Thatcher to the hilt, but understanding for, let alone goodwill towards, Britain's demand is no longer to be found in other Common Market countries.

Were to other eight to meet Britain's demands, revolutionary changes would need making to EEC law.

Alternatively, their national budgets would need drastic increases. One solution is as out of the question as the other.

British opinion is already expecting Whitehall to paralyse the Common Market once the next EEC summit comes a cropper, as it inevitably must, next February or March.

Britain would, for instance, be able to restrict its remittances to Brussels or to make uncompromising use of its veto on key decisions by the EEC Council of Ministers, such as the annual farm price review.

The domestic applause Mrs Thatcher might expect to receive would soon dwindle.

But the Nine were all losers in Dublin. It would be tragic for Western Europe as a whole if the British Government were not to appreciate this fact in time. *Erich Hauser*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 3 December 1979)

Bid to make up lost ground in Mozambique

Trade between Mozambique and West Germany is declining and relations between the two nations are in a state of suspended animation.

There are suggestions that Bonn might have missed the boat with the former Portuguese colony, which gained independence in 1975.

The Federal Republic of Germany was certainly woefully late to see that Frelimo was going to win the war of independence.

Bonn still backed its Nato partner, Portugal, when defeat was only a matter of time.

East Germany, on the other hand, supported Frelimo from an early stage. This has assured the GDR of an advantage that it has consistently maintained by fair means or foul.

Diplomatic relations between Bonn and Maputo were established shortly after Mozambique gained independence and it would make common sense to bolster them with specific agreements between the two countries.

Mozambique, a poor developing country in southern Africa, badly needs development aid, experts and know-how.

West Germany, a highly developed country with a shortage of raw materials, would not only stand to benefit from supplies of Mozambican commodities.

It would also help to secure a significant export market, as France, Italy, Holland and the Scandinavian countries have already realised.

Early in 1978 Bonn tried to establish relations with Maputo on a wider footing. Project and capital aid was offered to break the ice — DM10m of each.

The Machel administration seemed willing to accept the offer, but when a West German delegation flew to Maputo to sign the framework agreement it soon discovered the fly in the ointment.

Bonn insisted that the treaty apply to West Berlin, whereas the Mozambicans explained that acknowledgment of this Berlin clause would upset cordial relations with their "natural allies", the Soviet Union and the GDR.

The Bonn delegation argued the case for all they were worth, but the Mozambican viewpoint was unshakable, so they flew home empty-handed.

Bonn's ambassador, Elmar Weindel, has since marked time at his Maputo embassy. He has been reduced to seeing how others have bridged the gap.

Yet he remains convinced that "Mozambique could be a text-book example of meaningful development aid in Africa."

As a result of the revolution there is no longer an exploitative upper class. Politically trained Frelimo cadres ensure the minimum of law and order that is a prerequisite of development planning.

The German-South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry attributes the loss of trade between West Germany and Mozambique in part to the low level of export credit guarantees.

They total DM100,000 at most in Mozambique's case, as against more than DM7bn for Iran.

Yet unless indications are deceptive an improvement is in the offing. Bonn has hinted, it appears, that higher sums might be guaranteed in individual instances.

Maputo has indicated readiness to discuss a modified Berlin clause that would meet Bonn halfway.

The compromise formula that could well help both sides out of their present impasse is: "This treaty also applies to Berlin (West)." *Günter Gesch*

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 2 December 1979)

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

Party conferences tell a story, but never the whole story

Party conference — those two words are enough to electrify the active members of a political party. But they are also enough to depress party leaders.

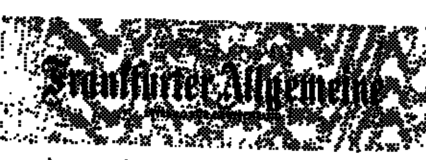
Privately, the leaders often wonder how they are going to get through what can be an ordeal.

One cannot recall a party leader actually being deposed (that is, not being re-elected) at a party conference, but there have been some awkward situations.

Free Democrat leader Hans-Dietrich Genscher discovered this to his cost at the Mainz party conference in November 1978 when his nominee as party general secretary, Günter Verheugen, only narrowly got the vote.

Helmut Schmidt, who is only deputy leader (party leader Willy Brandt now seems to be above party conference resolutions) must be apprehensive about the SPD conference in Berlin this month mainly because of the issues of atomic energy and the modernisation of nuclear arms in Europe.

The law on associations leaves it to the associations (which is what the parties are) to decide how often they call



meetings of their members (which is what party conferences are, with delegates representing the membership).

However, the party law of 1967 stipulates that party conferences have to be held at least once every two years.

The purpose of this is to ensure the "democratic inner order" of the parties as prescribed by the Basis Law.

The assumption is that if a party follows the "führer principle" (even under the guise of democratic centralism) then it will not stick to the rules of parliamentary democracy once it gets into power.

Nonetheless party conferences represent an element of oligarchy in the democratic, egalitarian system.

Only about 2m of the 60m people in this country are members of the big or established parties — SPD, FDP, CDU, CSU.

And of these 2m — the figures and the facts vary from party to party — only about a quarter are active.

In other words the delegates to party conferences do not even have the votes of all two million party members. Only those who are "available" go along to election gatherings.

Sociologist Max Weber described the role of this category many years ago. And it is those who are available who usually stand as delegates to party conferences. Thus we have the same kind of delegates in all parties: most are civil servants, and that includes MPs.

Thus the state, via its civil servants, influences the party which, in turn, if it is in the happy position of forming the majority or part of the majority, influences the state.

In general party conferences should tell us what direction a party is going in. However, party conferences are usually carefully prepared and produced events.

The resolutions passed often give less indication of the true state of the party than the skill of the party leadership. The media are far from gentle in their coverage.

They give a lot of space to a "fighting" speech from a party leader or indeed even to a "less inspiring" one. We do not find out much about the various currents of opposition within the party. It is awkward to report on this because the party leadership can then ask indignantly why this minority is treated as more important than the "impressive majority."

Overall resolutions on certain subjects are usually carried with majorities at party conferences. What is more important is the discussion of details beforehand.

The FDP provided a classic example of this at its national conference in Bremen in June. The party's overall energy concept was approved with a large majority but in the preceding discussions a resolution to stop the building of further atomic power stations was defeated by only two votes.

The powerful anti-nuclear energy minority in the party voted on the final resolution for the sake of party unity, but they had shown their strength. This group still exists and the party leadership cannot ignore it.

Conferences of the main parties are difficult for the outsider to follow. Internal wrangles are smoothed over for the public. The ordinary citizen is either bored or sceptical. The situation in the FDP, the smallest of the big parties, is not very different.

There is widespread criticism in the FDP that instead of turning its size to advantage and being decisive it is behaving like a small catch-all party and its pronouncement are as vague as those of the bigger parties.

North Rhine-Westphalia *Land* leader elect Hirsch is aware of this criticism but points out that a party which aims to appeal to 10 per cent of voters must first work out what 10 per cent it was trying to appeal to — a by no means easy task.

The parties, who ought to be arguing at party conferences but do not want to argue, have two possible ways out. First there are specialist conferences where small groups can reach agreement. For example there is the SPD lawyers' working group whose unlimited progressiveness is untrammelled by government responsibility and the uninhibited folksiness of the CDU's local council congresses.

Then there are the party conferences on selected topics. The CDU has held none such conferences since the 1976 general election. Occasionally the subject under discussion was specific: for instance the conference on the roots of terrorism in November 1977.

But there have also been conferences on such ethereal subjects as "Options for a Viable Future" (March 1979). And the CSU is shortly to hold a conference on "the Future."

The SPD has held even more of these conferences than the CDU. Since the 1971 general election 11 such congresses have been held, including the recent congress on the media, and the SPD has also made liberal use of the word "future" here. These congresses are more problematic for the FDP. The party is, in relation to its size, richer than the other parties — as its national treasurer Karry does not deny.

But on the other hand a congress is extremely expensive and makes a huge dent in the party's finances which, in absolute terms, are not so great.

Still it has held two congresses recently, one on the situation of the elderly in this country, the other on defence. It will be holding a congress on prevention of the abuse of computerised data in mid-December and in January there will be a congress on law.

(The CDU has already held a congress on this, in conjunction with the CSU). The FDP plans to hold another congress before the general election. The topic has not yet been chosen.

The quality of all these conferences differed greatly. The CDU's congress on terrorism, for example, was recognised as a useful contribution even by politicians of other parties. Apart from the question of quality, one can divide these congresses into three different categories.

Type one can be described as a decision-making aid congress. The very specialised congresses such as the SPD's conference on the media come into this category. The party experts on the subject come together and are joined by non-party experts. The opinion of the party is thus moulded, confirmed, united.

The party conference thus has great difficulty in reversing decisions "made by our own experts."

Type two is the congress at which a decision appears to be made and is related to type one and the association congresses. Representatives of certain groups within the party come together and make a clear statement of the kind which cannot be made at a party conference.

This statement can later be quoted to gain the support of the groups in question. The opposite of this is type three, in which the emphasis is on plurality of opinions.

Here it is important to have as many speakers as possible from "outside." These people can then put their point of view — usually one knows what it is because they have said it often enough before — and the party can then make selective use of these views, either internally for the benefit of its members or externally for the voters.

A congress of this kind also serves to make the party interesting and make it appear liberal. It shows that the party is prepared to listen to other points of view with equanimity.

However, all these congresses do not help the parties fulfil their task of telling the public who and what they are.

If anything, they obscure this at such conferences. The justification for holding them is that the parties have to "educate". The parties' real task though, is to show the voters what direction they are moving in. But this is difficult for the catch-all parties big and small. And when they do not know what to do on a given topic, hemmed in between young and old, housewives and wage-earners, liberals and lovers of law and order, what do they do.

If the funds are there, they hold a congress on the subject. This "sets a signal" and shows that the parties "are facing the burning issues of the day."

Friedrich Karl Fromme

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 27 November 1979)

Schmidt put on the spot over use of atomic energy

The CDU/CSU opposition has achieved one of its tactical, short-term aims.

A week before the SPD party conference in Berlin, it has forced Chancellor Schmidt to commit himself firmly to the expansion of atomic energy.

In the debate Herr Schmidt pointed out that Minister of Economic Affairs Otto Lambsdorff (FDP) had spoken for the government.

Count Lambsdorff's "yes" to the peaceful use of atomic energy was so clear that it also ties the Chancellor.

This means that he will not be able to take refuge behind the SPD party executives's resolution which makes so many conditions for the building of atomic power stations that in practical terms nothing can be done.

The citizens of this country can expect the Chancellor to promise that he will make the decisions he considers necessary to guarantee this country's energy supplies even if these decisions are not backed by party conference resolutions.

In this context, the composure with which Herr Schmidt reacted to opposition criticism of anti-nuclear energy elements within the SPD was remarkable.

Herr Schmidt even praised Schleswig-Holstein Prime Minister Stoltenberg for his speech, even though Herr Stoltenberg pointed out that many Social Democrats were bitterly opposed to the government's energy policy. Herr Stoltenberg added that if this were to become a permanent characteristic of the SPD then it would have to give up its claim to govern.

This point does not seem to be completely new to the Chancellor, who is said to have hinted at resignation in the Cabinet if his line was not adopted.

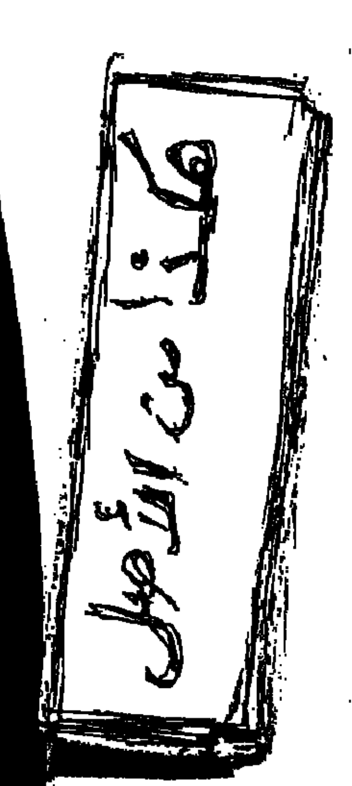
The debate in the Bundestag was not only an exercise in party tactics. There was a serious undertone in all the speeches in view of the developments in the Middle East.

Even Herr Zimmermann, leader of the CSU in the Bundestag, who does not usually let an opportunity to pillory the Chancellor's inability to act pass, offered him the support of the Opposition.

His promise that the CDU and CSU would help Herr Schmidt do his duty if necessary on the face of opposition from his own party reflects the schizophrenic political situation.

This will probably be even more evident at the Berlin SPD conference. However at the same time there seems to be a broad front of solidarity between the parties in Bonn on questions of survival. *Hans-Henning Zencke*

(Kieler Nachrichten, 29 November 1979)



■ THE EEC

Two significant decisions behind the parliamentary window-dressing

Four months have passed since the first directly-elected European Parliament assembled, but it is still difficult to distinguish between window-dressing and fact.

The sight of the magnificent building always raises doubts as to whether the enormous Palace of Europe is in fact no more than a *Potemkin village*.

Are the people arriving in the huge limousines no more than extras in a confusing spectacle?

And are the many flags adornment rather than symbol of a common task? Are the people coming and going in the corridors so hectic because the Assembly wants to cover up for its own insecurity?

It was easy to criticise the predecessor of this body with its second-rate delegates.

But a parliament voted by 111m Europeans and with politicians of the calibre of Berlinguer, Brandt, Tindemans and Barbara Castle should be able to command respect. Or was all the ado about the direct election no more than sham?

Not entirely. Buried under a mountain od statement are two significant decisions.

The first was that part of the EEC budget set aside to subsidise the overflowing milk production is to be cut back and replaced by more meaningful measures. This could well prune some of the wild growth in European agricultural policy.

Procedure is cleaned-up

The second to clean up the Parliament's procedural regulations. This was long overdue.

The battle of voices at the first session still lingers on in the memory, and the Parliament still has to bear the blemish of having elected a presidium without fixing its term of office.

Although radical individualists have put forward 5,200 amendment motions on a new draft procedure that should have kept the house busy until Christmas, the worst of the shortcomings have already been eliminated.

Simone Veil may stay in office as Speaker for two-and-a-half years; and none of her fellow MPs begrudge her this.

Even though the Parliament "still talks too much," as Bavaria's ex-Prime Minister Goppel put it, the flood of urgent motions for procedural reforms has been stemmed.

But the Europarliament has as yet failed to draw the difficult line between the freedom of the individual MP and an orderly procedure for the Assembly as a whole.

How, after all, is such a line to be drawn in an Assembly with 47 parties and groupings, all of which demand their rights — an Assembly in which "politicians with such widely differing experiences of war, cultural struggle, tyranny and democracy sit next to each other and legislate," as Belgium's ex-Prime Minister Leo Tindemans but it?

Euro-MP Horst Seefeld (SPD) says that the debates should not be measured by the Germanic criteria of orderliness



but that the Latin and Anglo Saxon temperament should be given room.

Seefeld quotes an Italian MP who said: "The world Parliament comes from *parlare*, and this is the parliamentarian's vested right."

So, is the Europarliament to remain a "debating society", as Gaullist Jacques Chirac has mocked?

Chirac has, so far, been wrong. So is Hans-Joachim Seeler, Hamburg Social Democrat, who predicted once that it would take only six months before the "peripheral MPs keep quiet and the others will take over."

This parliament has no back benchers. None of the MPs will surrender their right to speak.

All those who have never before sat in a parliament appear so far to be satisfied — thus confounding those who expected cynicism from the newcomers.

As an example, the former leader of the Jusos (young members branch of the SPD) Heidi Wieczorek-Zeul, says that they "are happy to be free to say what could no longer be said at the rigid SPD at home."

The German Euro-MPs say they are satisfied with pay and allowances. They get a monthly basic of DM7,500 plus DM200 in expenses. In addition there is a daily allowance of just under DM200 a day for out of pocket expenses; travel expenses; and staff costs.

Since the various positions are to be staffed as internationally as possible, there is something for everybody — from committee chairman to deputy committee member.

But so many cooks must spoil the broth. Free Democrat Martin Bangemann is one of the most industrious Euro-MPs in his effort to prevent this.

His task is not easy; he has to try to get all 40 liberals from eight countries to act in concert.

The leader of the British Conservatives in the Europarliament has it easier: They are not only always present, but they also lead the debates.

To all other groupings applies what the wise old Italian Altiero Spinelli once said: "This is more a Parliament of the 19th than the 20th century. Policy is not made in the parties but imposed on them by the Assembly."

Given the great number of voices, it is idle to ask whether the left or the right predominates. But one thing is sure: this is a full-time Parliament and it has plenty of tasks to occupy that time, as Willy Brandt once said.

There is a plethora of issues the Euro-MPs with their limited power want to discuss and pass. But this is easier said than done considering that they spend one week of the month in the Assembly, two on committees and one in caucus sessions, shuttling between Strasbourg, Brussels, Luxembourg and other Community capitals, and indeed from continent to continent.

Cynics might say "join the Europarliament and see the world."

One of the problems is that the MPs rarely get a chance any more to talk to the people in their constituencies.

Erdmann Linde (SPD), whose constituency is in the Ruhr area, deplores this. He has not gone down a coal mine since his election.

A worried Willy Brandt says: "The main danger lies in the fact that the MPs lose touch with their home countries."

They not only lack the time for their constituencies, but also have to try and sell something that is almost unsellable.

After all, what can Euro-MP Magdalene Hoff tell the students of a Hagen secondary school about the functioning of Europe, this year's main subject in political education?

She could speak of the frequent and open debates in Strasbourg and the anti-German sentiments that come to the fore at times, for instance among French Communists.

And she could dampen hopes for a rapid development into a European union because she has learned in the Assembly how many reservations there still are on this subject.

She could also say that there is much less ideological enmity than in the various national parliaments. In the Europarliament, Christian Democrats and Social Democrats still meet publicly for a relaxed chat, and the British Labourite Barbara Castle receives a standing ovation from the Tories whenever defending British interests.

Frau Hoff could list the resolutions that have been passed, like that on overcoming famine in the world or that condemning the Teheran hostage-taking.

And, finally, she could impress the students by telling them how the Europarliament embarrasses the members of the Council of Ministers and, above all, those of the Brussels Commission with its questions.

But she would not succeed in convincing them of the Europarliament's tasks.

How should she, when the MPs themselves are uncertain on this point?

Even after the fourth plenary session, the dispute is still going on. The question is: May Euro-MPs debate only overall European concepts or may they also go into national and regional matters?

Bangemann complains that the Parliament wastes too much time debating the crisis of the Scottish textile industry or the structural malaise in Wales, although such local problems should not be an issue at the Europarliament.

The British above all view the Strasbourg Parliament as a twin of the House of Commons. They want to talk about bread-and-butter problems and not about European perspectives. So far as they are concerned, this is what politics is all about — and it earns them headlines at home.

The Europarliament is still groping to find some middle-of-the-road course between grand perspectives and banal everyday worries.

Not all Euro-MPs have the patience of Erwin Lange, a senior member, who advises that the framework provided by the Treaties of Rome be fully used before going further.

So far, this has not paid off. Or is it sufficient justification for the Europarliament that, in the two decades of its existence, it has initiated merger controls within the Community, the EEC's regional and social policy and the European Audit Office?

Or, perhaps, that it has demanded a type of European balance between the countries as happened recently?

It would be nice if the directly elected MPs could have a feeling of achievement to prevent them from getting fed up with their tedious work.

Tindemans has tried to bring about an amendment of the Treaties of Rome to provide the Europarliament with more scope. But his motion did not meet with undivided approcal.

After all — and this is probably the worst handicap of the Europarliament — many of its members are not interested in strengthening it and endowing it with more rights.

Even so, dissatisfaction with the limited possibilities is stimulating the imagination of the Euro-MPs. But a motion put forward by Kai-Uwe von Hassel (CDU) to place defence policy on the agenda has met with little sympathy.

It remains to be seen whether Frau Wieczorek-Zeul will fare better. She wants the Parliament to devote more time to issues that have hitherto been dealt with out of public view, among them the Gatt negotiations and a strategy to ensure the survival of the European automobile industry.

Greater variety more diffuse

The greater the variety of ideas put forward the more diffuse the appearance of the Parliament of which it was said in the election campaign at the beginning of the year that it could well become the motor of Europe.

Willy Brandt's demand that the accent be put on specific themes could perhaps soon revitalise the Europarliament.

The follow-up CSCE Conference in Madrid on which the Parliament should be heard, as suggested by Brandt, could help.

In any event, this would be in keeping with the present function of the Europarliament as a clearing house for European ideas and development.

But how convincingly the Euro-MPs fulfil this function will depend on their ability to solve their own problem, i.e. the question as to the final venue of the Parliament.

Most MPs have still not become used to Strasbourg. The Germans and Italians in particular complain about inaccessibility. And the British and the Danes are also unhappy.

Luxembourg stands hardly a chance as a venue, although a plenary hall is being built and it has been agreed to hold regular parliamentary sessions there.

So there remains only Brussels. But very few favour it, primarily because the French object to it.

Rumour now concentrates on Paris. This would have two advantages: it would be more accessible and — of course — acceptable to France.

Officially, the Euro-MPs still [illegible] this issue. They are still carried by the early euphoria or are being distracted by the flood of motions and initiatives amounting to an annual 100 million sheets of paper.

The Parliament of Strasbourg is still questing for its own identity, but soon it will have to find and give signals.

Dieter Buhl

(Die Zeit, 2[illegible] November [illegible])

■ CHILDREN

Problem of under-age labour lingers on despite tight laws

Last year 877 cases of illegal child labour were discovered in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Five years ago, according to the Bonn Labour Ministry, the figure was twice as high.

The International Labour Organisation in Geneva says that at least 52m children throughout the world are forced to work.

In many Asian countries, especially, children under 10 are used for heavy labour.

And it is estimated that half of all children under 14 in the poor Calabria province in Italy are put to work.

The problem in even such an affluent country as West Germany lingers.

An inspector of the Bavarian trades supervision authorities recently saw a child scurry across the courtyard of a canning factory.

He suspected that the owner employed not only women to peel cucumbers and cut string beans, but children as well.

Under pressure from mothers

The inspector left but later returned unannounced. He found several children sweeping up.

The factory owner said it was not his intention to take advantage of cheap labour but that he was pressured by the mothers or they themselves would refuse to work.

He was fined for violation of the Child Labour Act which prohibits the employment of children under 13, even with parental consent.

Reports on child labour have shocked the public time and gain, especially in the Year of the Child.

Georg Neubauer, of Bavaria's Labour Ministry says: "Stepped up information and controls have greatly reduced violations of the Act."

The file which contained the case of the children at the canning factory had only seven other cases in which the authorities stepped in.

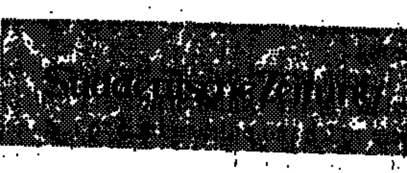
Child labour is particularly prevalent in catering enterprises run as a family business where children draw beer during the rush hour or serve at table, says Herr Neubauer.

It also exists in small artisans' shops and on farms, where there are times when every hand is needed. The same applies to piece work done at home, and this is particularly difficult to control.

Frequently the Labour Ministry does not learn about a case until an accident has happened: a 13-year-old Italian boy working for a pizzeria got his hand into the dough-kneading machine, and the fire brigade had to be called to free the child before he could be taken to hospital.

The hand had to be amputated and the pizzeria owner was charged with causing bodily injury.

But by and large inspectors depend on information from the public. It is thus that the case of a 15-year old secondary school student came to their notice. The girl worked for an office maintenance company as a char. Armed with a bucket and scrubbing brush, she went to work daily at 5 p.m., primarily



cleaning toilets. The work was usually finished after three hours, which earned her DM30. At 8 the next morning she had to be at school.

It took six weeks before the authorities intervened and stopped this case.

In terms of the Child Labour Act, anybody subject to compulsory schooling, which goes through grade 9, is deemed to be a child.

In many instances, small businesses employ children simply out of ignorance of the law. Some do so because they know from experience that these youngsters are eager workers and because their wages are lower than those of adults.

There is the case of the 16-year-old ninth grader in Munich who wanted to supplement his pocket money to buy a stereo set. He helped out in a plastics factory on Saturdays, collecting DM10.50 an hour.

A friend of his joined him at work. The boy's father saw nothing wrong with it, saying: "It won't do the boy any harm to get a taste of work. Since he took the job, he's even been better at school because he realises the importance of qualifying for a decent job."

The Bavarian Chamber of Trade and Commerce concedes that many a small businessman might be faced with a conflict situation when a friend asks him to give his juvenile son a job during the summer school holidays. But most of these cases are never recorded by the authorities.

Bavaria's Farmers' Association made no bones about the fact that is considers the Child Labour Act unrealistic in many ways. Though pressure by the Farmers' Association has induced the legislators to modify the Act by permitting the temporary use of children over 13 on farms, the law is still contrary to what the children themselves want, says an Association spokesman.

Is a father to forbid his son to work for more than three hours a day during his school vacation if there is nothing the boy would like better — only because the lad is only 12?

After all, children of that age view this type of work as just another form of play.

All this gives the impression that violations of the Child Labour Act are frequently viewed as petty infringements, almost a sport.

Says Wolf Sartorius of the Child Protection Agency in Munich: "Many find it cute to see a ten-year-old driving a tractor. And besides, how are you to enforce a law when most people in this country still hold that the devil finds work for idle hands?"

Doctors and psychologists argue along different lines. They speak of the increased risk of accidents, learning difficulties at school through being overtaxed and a number of other harmful effects to children whose physical and psychological development is still unfinished. It was their views that eventually led to the Child Labour Act.

The Act makes provision for exceptional cases if the child is not endangered: children over 13 may, with parental consent, not only help out on the farm for a limited time but are also permitted to spend two hours a day delivering newspapers or do little jobs in connection with sports, such as collecting tennis balls or look after horses, if this is part of their riding lessons.

But under no circumstances may they feed the horses, for safety reasons.

Given a special permit by the authorities, children are also permitted to take part in theatre performances and concerts and appear on radio and television or in movies. The same applies to photography.

Satisfying parents' ambitions

It is possible that children used in commercials for TV etc. are frequently overtaxed only to satisfy the parents' ambitions or help buy a new washing machine, the authorities admit.

Many a job which might seem to be just child's play is banned. Recently, people under 16 were barred from donating blood and selling lottery tickets or collecting in the streets for charity or other worthwhile purposes (not too long ago, a girl had her collection box snatched).

What type of job for children is tolerable remains arguable.

Wolf Sartorius says: "The Youth Protection Act wants to prevent abuses where a performance oriented society lacks understanding. Children have a right to their childhood."

Sabine Reuter

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 29 November 1979)

Urgent edge to social questions over migrant school leavers

More than one million foreign children and juveniles under 18 live in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Though many were born here, most arrived when they were of school age. And more than 700,000 are likely to arrive.

Labour market experts have therefore for some time been speaking of a social time bomb that could seriously jeopardise our society in the next few years unless these children are integrated.

The National Federation of German Employers' Associations has now presented a list of necessary measures.

The state and the business community are called upon to provide the "second generation of foreigners" with unhampered access to German education and job training.

These should be as available to the children of aliens as they are to Germany's young and existing discrimination is to be eliminated as far and as soon as possible, the paper demands.

Figures show that there is no time to be lost:

Only 28 per cent of foreign children go to kindergarten. The figure for German children is twice that for foreigners.

In the school year 1977/78, 434,500 foreign children attended a general education school in this country. This is a 12-fold increase in 10 years. Turks account for 37 per cent and are thus the strongest segment.



One of five foreign children of school-going are does not attend classes.

Only two of five foreign children graduate from *Hauptschule* (a school going up to the ninth grade and preparing children for the trades).

Between 40,000 and 50,000 foreign children a year reach working age. According to projections, this will rise to 80,000 by *1989* — not taking immigration into account.

Only half of the 120,000 foreign juveniles aged between 15 and 18 attend a vocational school.

Foreign youngsters are handicapped not only by not speaking German and by inadequate education. They also lack educational motivation.

The Employers' Federation paper therefore holds that information should be aimed at the parents. Proper counselling is the more important as the career chosen by the parents has a major bearing on that opted for by the children.

Since many parents, having worked in this country for years, are determined to return home, they are not particularly interested in vocational training for their children.

As a result, the children are influenced by the parents and deprived of a chance to make use of Germany's educational facilities.

Foreign children should therefore be sent to kindergarten and use should be made of all available information. Companies employing foreigners could play a major role in this respect, the paper says.

The Employers' Federation calls on the state to do more in preparing foreign children for life and work in this country.

Equality of opportunity, the paper says, must apply to foreign children as well, as must the principle of aptitude and inclination as a major criterion of vocational training.

For the purpose of integration, one-the-job training should take place together with German juveniles to prevent the foreigners later being treated as second-class skilled workers.

The paper thinks little of special graduation exams for foreign apprentices.

Career choice and training must not be governed by a possible return to the home country but be based on the assumption that the person concerned will later work in the Federal Republic of Germany.

In any event, a completed voctional training provides better chances on any labour market — both here and abroad.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 23 November 1979)

■ THE THIRD WORLD

Legacy of the colonial past lingers over North-South talks

Many Western delegates to North-South conferences are amazed to see Third World representatives act against their own economic interests.

How is it possible, politicians from the industrialised world ask themselves, for the Group of 77 — it now has well over 100 members — to show solidarity in the North-South dialogue even though this, in itself, often produces obvious economic handicaps.

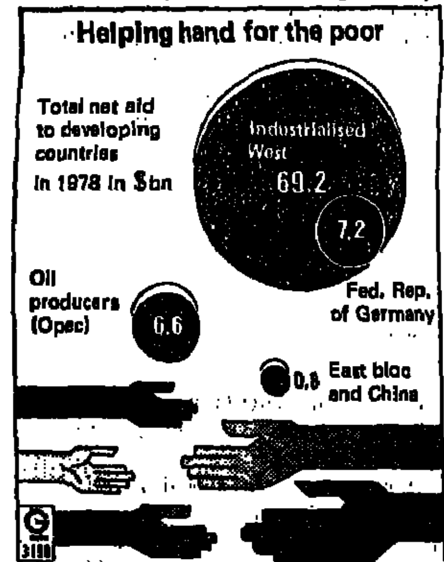
The Group of 77 now includes rich and very poor nations, members on the threshold of industrialisation and those with virtually no production facilities worth mentioning and barely any trade beyond municipal boundaries.

Most of these states were once Spanish, Portuguese, British, French, Italian, Belgian and Dutch colonies or, as in the case of the territories mandated by the League of Nations, former German colonies.

Some were labelled "protectorates" but most were, at least in their accessible parts, dominated by Europeans or (as in the case of the Philippines and Cuba) North Americans.

Even Iran which, nominally, has never been under direct foreign rule, had to put up at the beginning of the century with being divided into a Russian and a British zone of influence. (During World War II, this led to occupation by British and Soviet troops to prevent an alliance between Iran and Germany).

Helping hand for the poor



Must the unity of Third World nations in their dialogue with the West therefore be viewed as a simple expedient in overcoming the past? Do some of the spokesmen of the Group of 77 believe that the vaunted North-South co-operation in the fields of technology and economy must eventually lead to a new form of colonialism?

There are signs that would seem to confirm such a theory. An Indian politician publicly said a few years ago that the adoption of Western technology could lead to new and subtle though extremely effective dependence that should be prevented. He therefore called for the development of a national technology.

Modern plant and equipment that can only be maintained and operated by European or American experts and for which spares can only be obtained from the industrialised world seems to bear this out.

Thus the former colonial masters, having developed such a technology-based economy, would once more be in the driver's seat. (By withdrawing their technical experts from China, the Soviets showed how an independent country can be made dependent by helping it develop).



But the Indian politician also gave a hint of fear — fear of a supposed or actual intellectual and moral loss of identity due to European and American influence. This is an aspect rarely raised in the North-South dialogue.

When we Europeans speak of modernisation, when we provide capital and advice for the development of a consumer goods industry, pointing to our experience and our cheque books, we frequently overlook that we thus actually intend to change the way of thinking and life in the developing countries.

It is this that frequently causes resistance — not always consciously. The Third World countries defend themselves against the rationality of those who regard themselves as the descendents of the Age of Enlightenment, protagonists of progress and people who know a thing or two about the ratio of cost and benefit.

The proclamations of Ayatollah Khomeini and his Islamic revolution reflect the desire for spiritual and cultural national identity.

Initially, Western observers believed that the Ayatollah's opposition was directed against Iranian feudalism and that it would eventually help to modernise the country.

The same was thought would happen when King Idris of Libya was toppled by Colonel Ghadaffi. This was equally wrong.

It soon turned out that the new rulers, trained in the United States and Britain, were much more determined to distance themselves from the West than the king had ever contemplated.

Ghadaffi's deputy, Major Jalloud, told a German visitor a year after the putsch that Libya did not intend to import Western consumer goods and use Western technology on behalf of the local population, though it had the money to do so.

He feared that the comforts that would thus be provided would upset and possibly destroy the traditional way of life.

In Saana, the capital of North Yeman, German development aid technicians built a modern airport. The functional buildings that they had planned, however, was sternly rejected by the then president of the country, who enjoyed a reputation as a sagacious judge.

The buildings had to be adapted to the national style of architecture and ornamented accordingly. The rulers feared that the European structure would be followed by others of a similar character.

Those familiar with the imposing old city, with some buildings dating back 4,000 years, will understand this criticism of the German design.

Functionality is no criterion in that part of the world.

Those with aspirations to rule in Arabia must be familiar with Arab art forms, the richness of Arabic, the imagery of the language and its manner of expression.

Anyone who wants to be somebody must take plenty of time for man-to-man conversation. Efficiency experts have no raison d'etre there.

Of course, this does not apply in equal measure to all Arab states, but even in the most westernised states of the group, in Morocco, there is a clear spiritual and cultural demarcation line separating it from Europe.

The clearly French influenced Socialist opposition in Morocco is irked by the fact that its Algerian brothers do not practise democracy and pluralism of political parties but have replaced French colonial rule by an Islamic Socialist authoritarian state.

But wherever this Algerian practice, introduced by the theologically educated late head of state, Boumedienne, shows anti-Western traits it is anything but unpopular among many Third World countries.

In his memoirs, Henry Kissinger expresses surprise at the fact that so many Third World countries have a democratic form of government. He believes that democracy is so unpopular there not due to Western sins, but because leaders in most developing countries would not have taken upon themselves the risk of fighting against colonialism only to be deposed by a vote.

This is an oversimplified interpretation. It overlooks that democracy has only developed where renaissance, reformation and enlightenment exerted an influence.

But this Western democracy has for centuries been viewed by the peoples of the Third World as the form of government of the colonial masters — and it has always remained alien.

In their search for a national identity many Third World countries therefore attach particular importance to remaining aloof towards the achievements of Western civilisation, and this includes democracy.

What they fear is a loss of intellectual and moral identity. The contradiction in their attitudes lies in the fact that they nevertheless make use of Western science and technology and want to participate in what the West calls technical, economic and social progress.

Karl Moersch

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 25 November 1979)

Paper defines scope of aid for the next decade

German development aid in the 1980s should be concentrated on southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, says a Government-sponsored report.

The paper criticises the unsuitable mammoth conferences of the North-South dialogue and says that Unctad V in Manila promoted frustration.

An important element on which the ideas of the 21-page confidential paper are based is the growing differences between countries in the Third World.

Development strategy should be selective in dealing with the specific needs and conditions of the individual groups of countries.

The paper distinguishes between the group of foreign-trade-oriented nations that are also threshold countries (Singapore, Korea, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico; Mediterranean countries such as Morocco, Tunisia, Israel; and the European developing countries of Spain, Portugal and Greece), and nations with important raw materials reserves, among them the Opec countries and other important mining nations like Zaire, Liberia, Chile and Peru.

Development policy for these countries should concentrate on intensified co-operation in foreign trade, so far as commerce and the transfer of private capital is concerned. Another important element should be scientific, technological and industrial co-operation.

Development aid to these countries should either be discontinued in the medium term (as in the case of Korea and Brazil) or gradually reduced over a long period of time (as in the case of Israel, Syria, Turkey, the European developing countries and the major mining nations).

Where aid continues to be granted, the accent should be on scientific and technological co-operation and on alleviating the social and economic hardships resulting from the modernisation process (underdeveloped regions, environment protection and slum rehabilitation).

The other three groups of countries — nations with average growth rates and small natural resources such as Cameroon, Kenya and the Philippines; the 30 least developed countries (LDCs) and southern Asia (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh) — should become the main beneficiaries.

In view of the poor experience so far with the North-South dialogue, the paper suggests a restructuring, saying that the industrialised nations have shown no initiative. Their strategy of gaining time, coupled with piecemeal concessions is the surest way, the paper says, of making their position untenable. The more so since all important areas of economic policy are increasingly discussed with a view to North-South relations.

The new international economic order was essentially based on the decisive fundamental ideas of an international social market economy.

And the declared willingness of the Third World to co-operate in an integrated system should meet with more appreciation than hitherto and be rewarded by a say in international bodies.

Global issues (seabed mining, space, disarmament, world climate) should continue to be dealt with in such bodies.

For most of the important problems, however (energy, raw materials, industrialisation and access to markets), the mammoth conferences should be replaced by smaller meetings, both in terms of participants and the number of issues discussed.

Heinz Heck

(Die Welt, 27 November 1979)

■ ENERGY

Oil bottleneck the price of 25 years mis-direction in the market

An old farmer's adage has it that we should run our private lives as though we were going to die tomorrow but our business affairs as though we were destined to live for ever.

A moment's thought is enough to realise we have paid far too little heed to the wisdom that lies behind this farmer's lore.

We have often chosen to ignore it completely, developing a new way of life and an economic outlook that have less to do with economy than with robbery and exploitation.

We have concentrated neither our energy nor our imagination on husbanding scarce resources or taking greater care in our use of the soil, water resources and the atmosphere.

This realisation is nothing new. Waste in its present form has been common for the past century. What is new is the rate at which resources are being squandered. The pace of change has accelerated at a staggering rate.

As recently as 10 years ago many pundits maintained that the problem of production had, to all intents and purposes, been solved.

Man's need could be met once and for all. The philosopher Hegel had been right in claiming that the purpose of the Earth's existence was to enable Man to take possession of it.

But the past 10 years have seen a complete change. We have suddenly come to realise the alarming rate at which we have been pillaging our planet's resources.

Even worse, we are now beginning to doubt whether further economic growth is at all possible, given that these resources are fast being exhausted.

We have doubts about the foundations of progress itself and appreciate, with some surprise, that progress has its price, and that no-one can get round footing his share of the bill.

Mind you, academic findings and expert forecasts are not what have hammered the message home. One is bound to admit that it took the price policy pursued by the oil-exporting countries to show us how serious and specific the danger was.

Had not Opec sounded the alarm in 1973 the prices of oil products might well have fallen even further. They would then have been even less in keeping with long-term scarcity.

We would have carried on wasting energy. There would probably have been no North Sea oil today and no Alaskan pipeline. Nuclear power would have been a scientific luxury of no practical importance, coal production still on the decline.

How could this come about? How was it possible for us to arrive at this energy bottleneck in a bare 25 years? It was the price of 25 years of market misdirection.

This is a serious judgement and will need some backing up. But what did the market signalise all these years? It signalised that oil was cheap, amply available and the world's safest source of energy.

We took these signals at face value and made ever greater use of oil. In Germany, for instance, oil's share of energy consumption was increased from 5 to over 50 per cent in this period.

Coal's share declined, on the other hand, from 73 to 14 per cent. And it was the same story everywhere. The post-war world economy was an oil-based economy.

Dr Guido Brunner is a member of the European Commission with responsibility for energy, research and education.

Now we know these market signals were misleading. They were a short-term signal that dangerously overlooked future facts, leading to misdirection of resources.

It was a misdirection against the background of a liberal economy that could no longer be reversed by economic means alone. It took politics to set matters right.

Matters have been set right since 1973, and it has proved a painful process because it strikes deep into the heart of the economy.

It affects not only cyclical trends but also entire structures, calling production and behaviour patterns into question. This was bound to be the case with roughly $800bn being redistributed in 6 years.

This sum is the total of Opec countries' net oil earnings since 1973, the result of a tenfold increase in oil prices.

The politicisation of world energy markets has taken on a third dimension: Third World countries are no longer prepared to stay silent.

John Stuart Mill, then Karl Marx, and later John Maynard Keynes divided economic goods into two categories: those that are really necessary and those that are merely deemed desirable.

Most of what is deemed desirable in today's industrial society must be rated more a wish than a necessity, more of the mind than of the body.

In the industrialised world poverty is often strictly relative, a poor man being someone who earns less than the man next door.

A poor man is someone who has wishes that are unfulfilled. Which is not, of course, to say that this kind of poverty is any less legitimate or significant for mankind.

But two billion people are still struggling to make ends meet, to ensure an adequate supply of essentials, the other category of goods.

Two billion people are fighting famine and disease, and their needs are absolute, not relative.

In a humane, just world our foremost obligation ought, I feel, to be to satisfy the absolute needs of mankind, and the energy needed to meet these absolute needs is currently at stake.

I feel we may say without exaggeration that developments in the energy context will be a test case for the further course of world history, both politically and economically.

It is too easy to lay the blame solely at the oil-exporting countries' door. In the final analysis they cannot market more than the sum total of their subterranean resources.

True, it will be a matter of how scarce resources are husbanded, but in the long run the world economy cannot withstand a policy of sudden, drastic price increases.

They jeopardise stability and peace, and this is something no-one, least of all the producer countries themselves, can be interested in. Those who call for moderation must practise it themselves if they are to retain credibility.

We shall have to undertake enormous changes in the economy, since we can only regain control of our own destinies by reducing our ominous reliance on oil.

We need to pursue programmes of determined energy-saving. We shall have to replace outdated industrial processes. We must put paid to poor insulation and energy-wasting transport systems.

We must practise greater domestic economy, cutting energy consumption in heating homes and running househould equipment.

These are all sectors in which enormous quantities of fuel are still squandered. Experts estimate that if energy-saving options were utilised to the full up to 30 per cent of energy consumption could be saved in industry, up to 35 per cent in the transport sector and up to 50 per cent in the home.

Substantial investment will be needed. Conversion to energy-saving techniques will cost DM100bn a year over the next 10 years in the European Community alone.

We will also need funds to develop alternatives to Arab oil and explore fresh energy possibilities. Costly technology will be needed to produce new, non-Opec oil or natural gas in, say, the Arctic or the continental shelf.

Nuclear power stations are technologically complex and must meet strict safety requirements, so they too require high capital expenditure.

To run more coal-fired power stations further investment is necessary. They too are expensive, especially if new mines need sinking to supply the coal they need.

So energy investment will cost a lot, and this extra will be in addition to the two to three per cent of gross national product we will need to balance payments and pay for higher oil bills.

The amounts involved will make the cost of domestic reforms that have always seemed so impressive appear modest.

In the years ahead we will have to invest much of our economic growth in "energy reform." It will be cash that is, initially at least, no longer available for consumer purposes.

This will also open up new opportunities at least on a par with those of past industrial revolutions. Skilled entrepreneurs with imagination and willingness to commit themselves will accomplish pioneering feats and, I have no hesitation in saying, earn good money.

I also envisage tasks for politicians. We are not doing people a good turn by preserving them from minor discomforts, for whatever reason, only to expect them to shoulder heavier burdens at some future date.

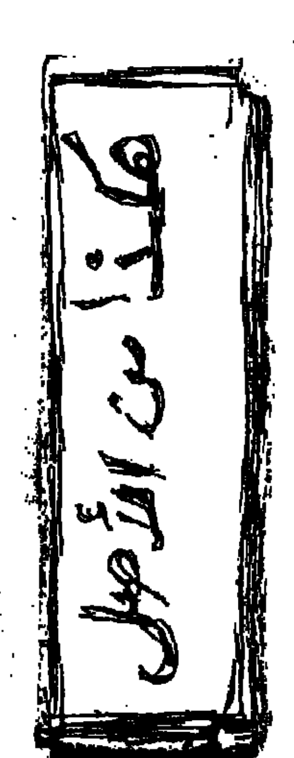
Politicians must take the lead again. We need to establish a fresh relationship between economics and politics.

Many will find it difficult to believe in further progress and comprehensive improvements. To them I should like to say, quoting a European Prime Minister:

"We may not succeed in gaining access to the kingdom of heaven but we shall certainly try to stay out of hell."

Guido Brunner

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 25 November 1979)



■ RESEARCH

Scientists wait on flying laboratory

A research aircraft that should see civil aviation through into the 21st century is to be commissioned by DFVLR, the West German Aerospace Research Institute.

Details of the programme, which will last 5 or 6 years, were announced at the institute's 10th annual general meeting in Munich.

The Aerospace Research Institute has laboratories all over the country, but its head office is in Porz, near Cologne, and main laboratories are in Oberpfaffenhofen, near Munich.

The research aircraft, a kind of flying laboratory, has yet to be chosen. The choice is between a German and a US version.

It will take over as an airborne simulator from the HFB 320 research jet and be used mainly to research and develop new computer-supported control concepts for future generations of commercial aircraft.

It is expected to lend invaluable assistance in the development of the European Airbus range.

At the end of 1979 the A 300 version of the Airbus will be in use by 14 airlines in all five continents. In three years' it will be joined by the A 310, a smaller version.

Instead of passengers, the fuselage of the research plane will be chock full of special devices and electronic equipment, much of which is still only on the drawing board.

So the research programme, complete with a ground station, is scheduled to take five or six years.

In flight the aircraft can be fed via microwave radio with the flight characteristics of other planes, including the latest models.

"The pilot," says the project director, "is just a monitor minder."

One important feature of the research programme will be experiments with automatic take-off and landing procedures and with computer-supported data systems as part of safety in the air.

Project scientists and technicians will pay special attention to flight control.

The institute, which is the largest engineering research association in the country, with a payroll of 3,160, was also briefed in Munich on wind tunnels.

One such tunnel, in Holland, is shortly to open. It will specialise in the problematic low-speed landing and take-off stage and in noise abatement options.

For the mid-80s a trans-sonic cryo-wind tunnel is planned, and the institute hopes it will be built in Germany.

Its main purpose is to simulate more satisfactorily the aerodynamics of future supersonic transport and military aircrft.

Industry was well represented at the meeting, which was reminded that aerospace research results can prove extremely useful in other sectors.

Findings about combustion and airflow in rocket engines had, for instance, led to the development of a clean and economic oil burner for domestic central heating installations that was now manufactured under licence.

Karl Stankiewitz

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 27 November 1979)



The fourth German expedition to the Antarctic sets off from Bremerhaven on Norwegian icebreaker Polarsirkel. (Photo:

Party sets out for the Antarctic

Thirteen scientists from Germany, Argentina and Norway have left for the Antarctic from Bremerhaven on board the Norwegian icebreaker Polarsirkel.

Their departure marked the beginning of the fourth German expedition to the Antarctic; the last was in 1938. Münster geophysicist Heinz Kohnen is the man in charge.

The expedition is a result of the decision by Bonn to launch an Antarctic research programme in compliance with the terms of its membership of the Antarctic research treaty.

To qualify as a fully-fledged member of the group, Bonn must set up a base camp and research facility of its own in Antarctica.

The brief of the team of international research scientists will be to probe the ice shelf and pack ice and sound environmental conditions around the proposed base camp.

Other, more fundamental research will also be undertaken. Findings should lay the groundwork for further planning of scientific research.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 22 November 1979)



■ THE ENVIRONMENT

Experiments determine 'tolerable levels of poisons' in human diet

Comprehensive experiments with animals will continue to be necessary to determine acceptable levels of toxic products in food, a meeting in Bonn has been told.

Delegates to the meeting, of the German Research Association (DFG), heard that so far, experiments with cell cultures had not produced satisfactory results.

Our food has always contained certain substances which, if eaten in high enough doses, can damage the health.

Toxicity of food has nothing — as is commonly assumed — to do with whether the food concerned is naturally or artificially produced.

Among the natural toxins are solanin in potatoes, haemaglotin in beans, hydrocyanic acid and oxalic acid in different foodstuffs and sweets.

Synthetic substances in foodstuffs include: preservatives, enzymes, flavour additives, colouring, baking additives and traces of plant treatment substances, insecticides and medicines given to animals.

The Plant Protection Law stipulates what pesticides can be used and in what quantities. According to this law, only substances tested and approved by the National Biological Institute may be imported or used.

Toxicological analyses are concerned with finding out the ADI (acceptable daily intake). ADI is laid down by the World Health Organisation and by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO): it is the amount of a chemical in milligrammes per body weight which, taking all known risks into consideration, a consumer can take without any apparent risk.

No harm from small doses

This means that even if he took this amount every day of his life it would do him no harm.

In this country a toxicology working party has also introduced the concept of tolerable daily intake (DTA). DTA is even stricter than ADI and fixes values for substances not yet classified in ADI terms.

The structure and composition of a chemical substance is already an important indication of its toxic effects. Volatility and solubility of a substance permit an initial estimation of danger levels. Analysis starts getting difficult when the substances are composed of elements with different effects.

In such cases the reduction products formed in the ground, the water or the human body living organism cannot easily be analysed in terms of toxicity and effect.

The Bonn forum stressed that comprehensive animal experiments will continue to be necessary in the foreseeable future to determine levels of toxicity. Experiments with cell cultures had to date failed to produce satisfactory results.

Animals are dosed in varying degrees to test their reaction to the poisons.

Especially important for the study of possible effects on consumers is to work out the so-called "no-effect level," the highest dose which can be taken without any traceable effect.

This is done in a 90-day experiment. The highest concentration without effect is then worked out in terms of milligrammes per kilogramme of the animal's body weight.

And as the results of animal experiments cannot simply be automatically applied to human beings, an additional safety factor is built in. The results is then the highest acceptable daily dose (ADI) for human beings in terms of milligrammes per kilogramme.

Apart from the 90-day tests, other intensive test series are held to ensure that there is no danger of cancer, deformation of new born babies or damage to genetic material.

However often the real causes of the damage observed cannot be found.

Research scientists would be in a far better position if they could work out the mechanism by which the substances operate at molecular level in the experiments superfluous.

The Bonn forum also discussed the DFG programme on the effect of pesticides on water. In one analysis, scientists tried to work out figures for the spread of these substances on the surface of water. Organic substances and some elements in the earth form firm bonds. The clay-humus complex and pure humus have high absorption capacity and so constitute an important protection against pesticides getting into the water, whereas more rocky ground barely prevents the spread of organic chemicals. As a result, underground water can quickly become polluted.

Precise analysis necessary

Precise analysis of the soil is necessary where pesticides are sprayed over large areas. As the preventive or filter capacity of the soil is, as a rule, inadequate, the breaking down of pesticides is an expensive process.

There have been some reports that pesticide pollution is carried by the wind from one part of the world to another but up to now there are not enough detailed figures available on this.

The forum underlined once again that on the whole there was a clear trend towards less pesticide pollution in this country but that there was little likelihood of spectacular changes.

Heribert Weihönig

(Die Welt, 27 November 1979)

Giving a new face to the humble rubbish dump that is no longer wanted

A university team is examining the possibilities of reclaiming disused rubbish tips.

More rubbish than ever is being dumped in West Germany, but it is being dumped on an ever decreasing number of tips or being disposed of by alternative methods.

The team, led by Professor Gerhard Weidemann, of Bremen University's biology department, is studying ecological factors involved in reclaiming dumps.

Flowers and shrubs can grow quite happily on rubbish tips. The tips are usually reclaimed with a view to setting up leisure centres but before this can happen a process both costly and complex has to be gone through: the appropriate kind of ground has to be formed, and this takes time.

Professor Weidemann reckons that this process can be sped up if organisms, i.e. animals and plants play a part in it. The aim of his project is to prove that more rational modes or recultivation than those hitherto used are possible: he argues that animals and plants can enrich the earth and change it so that trees and bushes can later grow there and even lawns can be laid.

The Bonn Government's 1972 environment programme called for the recultivation of unused rubbish tips.

Professor Weidemann says that the method used so far is too expensive and the results unsatisfactory: the rubbish is covered with rubble from building sites, this is covered with soil, and seeds are then sown for plants.

The aim of this practice was to remove the unsightly dump and replace it with an ecosystem having the appearance of a meadow or a park.

Main question of the Bremen research project is: can the greening over of a covered rubbish tip be left to the plants that grow there naturally? The project also wants to determine what part organisms on the ground play in soil fertility.

It is known that they play the essential part but this has not yet been scientifically analysed and quantified, says Professor Weidemann.

The experiments began with a systematic study of the 35 rubbish tips in the city of Bremen, of which only two are still in use. Of the others, some have since been built on, others are used as small gardens, parks of for agricultural purposes.

However, most of the unused dumps — 18 in all — are wild and overgrown. Professor Weidemann's study group found concrete evidence of pollution on some of these dumps. Water from some of the dumps flowed via ditches into waterways:

In one case into tributaries of the Weser and in another case direct into the Weser itself.

One rubbish tip was in the middle of a protected drinking water area. The same almost certainly applies to other parts of this country — yet another reason for rapid and effective recultivation.

All former dumps in Bremen were classified by the university biologists in terms of size, age, environment, use and manner of recultivation. This information provides the basis for comparative studies.

Plants grow in abundance

Interim results are already available. On one dump, for instance, the biologists found 200 different kinds of plants, whereas in the immediate environment of the dump there were only 70. The same applied to the animals, for instance, woodlice snails and earthworms.

The experiment proper has now started over a four-hectare area which the Bremen authorities have allowed the research team to use. Here, on this former rubbish tip, the biologists will try out their new methods of recultivation.

They will have the chance to observe the development of flora and fauna on an artificially recultivated area and on an area left to its own natural devices.

The aim is to see if recultivation can be done more cheaply and effectively.

Helga C. Frerichs

(Deutsche Zeitung, 30 November 1979)

■ BOOKS

Children read about the Third Reich

Twenty years ago the argument about the Third Reich in books for children and teenagers broke out when Michael Castillo was awarded the German Youth Book Prize for his *Elegie der Nacht*.

Then, at the beginning of the sixties several important books on the Nazi past were published: *Sternkinder*, by Ascher Pinkof (1961), *Sterne über der Mauer*, by H. G. Noack, Willi Fährmann's *Jahr der Wölfe* and Hans Peter Richter's *Wir waren dabei* (all published in 1962).

These books are still read today. They are available mainly as paperbacks. About 51,000 copies of *Sternkinder* have been sold and Richter's *Damals war es Friedrich* (1969) has sold 116,000 copies, 38,000 in 1978 alone.

And Johanna Reiss' story *Und im Fenster der Himmel*, the story of a Jewish child in a hide-out during the war, is well on its way to becoming a children's classic, as the 51,000 copies sold show. In 1975 it was awarded the Buxtehude Book Prize.

Munich children's book expert Dr Jessica Schmitz of the School of Occupational Therapy and International Young People's Library, mentions this in the September issue of *Buchmarkt*.

She says: "Happily the state of consciousness in the Federal Republic of Germany has changed in the past years."

There is now "greater willingness to look at and analyse the Third Reich." The television series "Holocaust", despite its triviality, increased the interest of the young in our recent past because they could identify with the characters.

Booksellers reported that there has even been a huge rise in demand for books on this subject.

Books for children and teenagers on the Third Reich seem to be appearing everywhere now. In her survey of recent publications and some books as yet unpublished, Frau Schmid explains the variety of ways in which history can be presented, ranging from non-fiction and documentary accounts to children's stories and novels for youngsters.

Biographies of former national socialists have a positive effect because they show how easily young people can be misled.

In his preface to Renate Finckh's book *Mit uns zieht die neue Zeit*, publisher Hans Frevert of Baden-Baden writes: "The truthfulness and the admission of guilt in this book may convince young people more than other books where the author implies "I was always against it."

Works written in the first person are especially effective because they lend the events described greater authenticity. There is no shortage of such works at the moment. The demand for such books is underlined by the fact that Irina Korschunov's *Er hieß Jan* went through two editions in a year and has been translated into several languages.

It describes a love-relationship between a BDM girl — the BDM was the Nazi youth organisation for girls — and a Polish "foreign labourer". The relationship blossoms towards the end of the war and ends tragically.

In her introduction to Wendelgard v. Staden's autobiographical story, *Nacht über dem Tal*, Marion Gräfin Dönhoff writes that never before had she found the "inextricable skein of appearance and reality" described "so simply and so graphically" as in this tale of a girl's experiences.

Paperbacks such as Doris Orgel's account of the friendship between a Jewish child and the child of Nazi parents are extremely valuable because of the high degree of identification which is possible. This book is to be published shortly. The same applies to Evelyn Hardy's simple story based on a diary and entitled *Then I was fifteen*.

Also written in the first person is Wolf Klausner's story *Juppa and the Gypsies*, which describes a doubly tragic situation: a young boy who is one quarter Jewish hides a gypsy, but the liberation by the Americans presents the boys with new and difficult problems. The biographical account by Charles Hannam is particularly impressive because it is so self-critical and so open.

As the young Karl Hartland he experiences the terror of the Nazis and flees to England, where again he faces big problems. He describes himself as a "not very likeable pubertal egoist."

Even six-year-old children can take their first steps in the mastering of the past by reading for example Ursula Fuchs' *Emma und die Puppe*, a book which in the publishers view should be read together with adults. This book tells the story of how a six-years old girl with her doll experiences the beginning of the war.

At the end she no longer has the doll and has lived through the destruction of her immediate environment.

Gerda Neumann

(Nordwest Zeitung, 16 November 1979)

Unveiling signs of 'creeping sickness'

Max von der Grün's latest novel, *Flächenbrand*, looks at first sight like an attempt to jump on the bandwaggon of "coming to terms with the past" which got moving with the *Holocaust* series.

But it is nothing of the kind. He foresow the developments he describes here over 15 years ago.

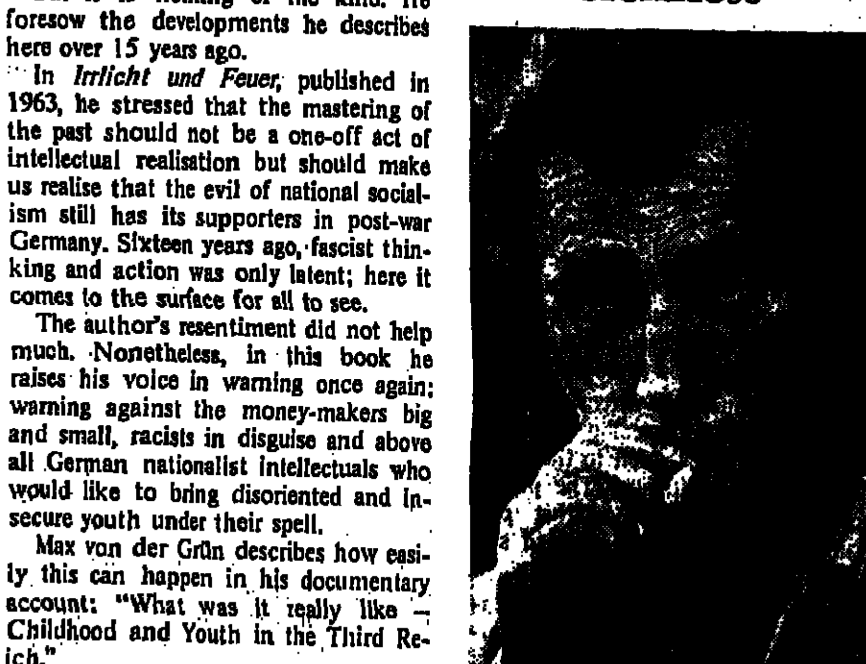
In *Irrlicht und Feuer*, published in 1963, he stressed that the mastering of the past should not be a one-off act of intellectual realisation but should make us realise that the evil of national socialism still has its supporters in post-war Germany. Sixteen years ago, fascist thinking and action was only latent; here it comes to the surface for all to see.

The author's resentiment did not help much. Nonetheless, in this book he raises his voice in warning once again: warning against the money-makers big and small, racists in disguise and above all German nationalist intellectuals who would like to bring disoriented and insecure youth under their spell.

Max von der Grün describes how easily this can happen in his documentary account: "What was it really like — Childhood and Youth in the Third Reich."

After all, it was his generation that was infected by the power and order ideology.

Von der Grün finds symptoms of this creeping sickness today, too: war medals worn naively as if they are articles of fashion; thoughtlessly repeated "Jewish jokes." The recent Bückeburger trial of right-wing extremists showed that this development has gone beyond the stage of macabre schoolboyish humour: here, four of the six convicted were under 30.



Max von der Grün

(Photo: Sven Simon)

Of course "working class" writer von der Grün does not set this novel in a social vacuum. The main character is jobless bricklayer, Lothar Steingruber. This Lothar Steingruber has much in common with Jürgen Fohrmann from *Irrlicht und Feuer*. Fohrmann, too, was unemployed, having lost his job in the mining industry crisis. However, he soon found work again.

But Steingruber, 45, is finished professionally in the late seventies — "there's nothing doing any more." The same applies to his daughter, waiting in vain for a place at university.

The two, independently of one another, get caught up in the net of the Neo-Nazis: the daughter because "this order isn't order any more" and the father because, at first without knowing it, he transports the weapons of a right wing organisation — to have something to do, to earn a few marks and for his own self-respect.

Von der Grün has produced an exciting novel here, a thriller with a political message. In previous works he attacked bosses and trade unions: here he slams the SPD. But the trade unions do not get off scot-free either.

Instead of seeking dialogue, mediocre union officials for the sake of an easy life merely adopt the old pattern of order and obedience. Von der Grün argues that when workers stop thinking they are likely to become the prey of demagogues and slogan-mongers.

The work is pleasantly easy to read. Here and there — an old weakness of his — he becomes too emotional.

It is annoying when all too often he confuses the novel genre with a film script. Some passages are like stage directions for slapstick scenes.

Heinz Welz

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 27 November 1979)

Authors tell how it all began

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Hans Daiber's *Wie ich anfing* ("How I started") is an account by 24 authors of their first literary works.

The book developed from a series of broadcasts on West German Radio in 1973. The idea is not new, as Daiber himself stresses. In 1894 Karl E. Franzos published a *History of First Works*, with 18 essays. And in 19[illegible] a similar volume entitled *Eröffnungen* ("Beginnings") was published in the GDR.

Basically an anthology such as this could be published once every 20 years — there would certainly be enough interest.

The presentation of a literary debut from the point of view of the author is bound to fascinate the general public. Thomas Mann wrote: "A first work — what a school of experience for the young artist — of objective and subjective experience!"

And to read descriptions of such experiences is interesting not only from the viewpoint of literary history, but also as a personal document.

Günter Grass makes the point, however, that the author is a "suspect witness" when he is talking about his own work.

Yet he himself proves that there are some things we can only *find out from* the author himself.

For example the development of his intentions and plans of the work, the inner difficulties while writing and the inspirational effect of little things: "One afternoon I saw a three-year-old boy among adults drinking coffee, with a tin drum around his neck. What stuck in my mind was the boy's complete absorption with his instrument and the way he completely ignored the adults chatting over their afternoon coffee."

Daiber's anthology contains the accounts of literary masters such as Conrad Ferdinand Meyer, Thomas Mann, Gerhart Hauptmann, Elias Canetti and Grass. Alongside them are almost forgotten authors such as the expressionist Kurt Heynicke, Martin Kessel and the Marieluise Fleisser, who has since been rediscovered.

We read of meteoric literary rises (in the case of Hermann Kesten) and of slow, laborious beginnings (H. W. Richter).

Some first works immediately turned out to be masterpieces, such as Thomas Mann's *Buddenbrooks* and Elias Canetti's *Die Blendung* ("Auto da Fé"). Others have only "attic value" as Heinrich Böll puts it. Alfred Kantorowicz tells of a first work which still has not been published: his stocktaking of the German intellectual scene in 1933 could not be published because of Hitler's rise to power.

It is "extremely interesting" to read what different views the authors have of their profession and the function of their work.

Gerhart Hauptmann felt within him the effects of a "higher decision" and confidently reached for the sky: "The victory I intend to win in this up and coming giant of a city (Berlin) can be compared to an olympic victory. I did

Continued on page 12

■ THE CINEMA

Pressure group gets behind the documentary

Film interests have begun to apply pressure to make it easier to produce documentaries.

This was one of the direct results to come out of the Duisburg film festival this year.

An organisation has been founded called the Documentary Film Association.

One of its first moves was to call on the Berlin Film Subsidy Institute, the Bonn Ministry of Economic Affairs and the two West German TV channels, ARD and ZDF, to recognise documentaries as "worthy of support" in the terms of the Film-Television Agreement, "regardless of their length and form."

Up to now documentary film-makers in this country have had to work under unfavourable conditions. Documentary films have little chance of being shown in cinemas unless, as in the case of Joachim Fest's film, *Hitler — eine Karriere*, they are speculative in form and content.

"Television has its fixed types of programme and only certain types of film or documentaries by prominent directors have a chance of being screened.

This year's Duisburg festival underlined that the documentary has am important role to play and that there are plenty of able documentary film makers around. The focal point of the traditional working conference this year was long documentary films.

An outstanding feature of this year's festival was the excellent work being produced in the film academies. The unconventional and precise narrative forms developed by second-year film students were astonishing. The narrative form is calm, detailed and compelling, far more so in many cases than what usually appears on our TV screens.

Their cameras discover people and their situations, capturing milieu and atmosphere. Image and text here combine fruitfully, something one had almost forgotten was possible on TV.

A Munich film student filmed her grandmother talking about her life. This film was the portrait of a woman who worked in an agricultural company talking simply about her years at work and demonstrating what kind of work she had to do.

Small, well-observed details gave us an insight into how tough this work is, hardship and difficulties.

In Duisburg the greatest attention was paid to the formally rough-hewn works. Rightly so, because long talks and discussions are a great help to film students.

In addition the film-makers themselves can work out how the public sees their films and whether they appreciate the intentions behind them.

"Kitchen — Theatre — Hospital" was the title of an attempt by a film collective at Berlin Film and Television Academy to record the daily life of a variety of people: for instance the 72-year-old old age pensioner who always wanted to be a cold cuts waitress and now does the cooking for youth groups; an actress in the Rote Grütze ensemble which specialises in children's and young people's theatre; and the nurses in a surgical women's ward.



A scene from 'Emigration', Nino Jacusso's entry from Switzerland in the Duisburg film festival

(Photo: Filmcooperative Zürich)

In the first two of these films it was relatively easy to let the characters speak for themselves. Not so in the third.

In the hectic atmosphere of the hospital, which seemed more like a factory than a place of healing, it was almost impossible to show anything in peace.

The film makers made a virtue of necessity: they made the difficulty of recording the daily life of the hospital a theme of their film, recording the coolness and lovelessness with which people here are confronted. The viewer gets a strong impression of how oppressive and narrow this milieu is.

Other informative documentaries were "Astrid Proll — her life in England" by the German Film and Television Academy Berlin, and a collective's film on Gorleben entitled *Die Herren machen das selber, dass der ihnen der arme Mann Feyndt wird* ("It's Them Up There Who Make the Poor Man Their Enemy").

The Berlin film makers talked to friends and colleagues of Astrid Proll, showing how she helped train young mechanics and showing how she was missed. The film was made shortly after her arrest.

The Gorleben film (Gorleben is the proposed site of an atomic waste dump and reprocessing plant) shows how until then peaceful and harmless citizens were forced, not by radical agitators, but by the authorities, the police apparatus and a dubious company to protest against those authorities, the *Land* and the police.

The films in Duisburg proved how important documentary films are and how important it is for film makers to be organised.

The city of Duisburg, which together with North Rhine-Westphalia supports the event, has promised financial assistance to the new association.

Heiko R. Blum

(Der Tagesspiegel, 25 November 1979)

Something for everyone in Munich

Munich is considered an Eldorado for film fans. No wonder — there are 61 cinemas in the city, so that every new film is bound to be on somewhere.

Some cinemas, such as the Türkendolch, in Schwaging, are considered forums for the experimental and outsider film.

This openness to all varieties of films cannot disguise the fact that in general the public only gets to see the finished product. To find out about developments, connections and trends in film the film-goer has to go elsewhere.

And one place is the Film Museum. This museum not only shows original versions of old films but also regularly presents films as part of a history of the cinema.

This cinema archive-cinema combination makes Munich unrivalled in this country. The Museum, founded in 1963, is one of the five departments of the city museum. It is in a historical building complex close to the Viktualienmarkt.

The systematic setting up of the film archive began in 1973 under its present director Enno Patalas. Patalas was previously editor of the magazine *Filmkritik* and is well known as the co-author of a standard history of film.

Patalas deliberately decided to concentrate on "young German film" because, as he says, "so much of it is produced in Munich."

The criterion for whether a film is bought for the archive is not commercial success but whether or not it offers something new. And so Patalas concentrates to a large extent on "marginal" film productions. He now has virtually all the works of 12 directors, including Kluge, Straub, Kristl, Wenders, Herzog, Costard and Schroeter.

Another area on which the archive concentrates is the approximately one hundre Russian films produced between 1920 and 1930. The archive also has almost all the documentary films on Munich ever made, including those made by the Americans at the end of the war in Munich and in Dachau.

The versions of twenties German films loaned by the big archives are usually very different from the originals and so Patalas decided to collect films from this period too.

If it is no longer possible to find good original versions of these films, a new version is put together from several copies of the original. This work requires a tremendously detailed knowledge of the films from all involved.

Old scripts were often invaluable aids in reconstructing subtitles. Precisely because of this meticulous and conscientious work the film museum achieved the high reputation essential for admission to the International Archive Association.

Good contacts to archives, collections and television companies throughout the world make the job of collecting easier. Also important are tips and suggestions from filmgoers at its performances.

The museum's cinema is technically so well-equipped that silent can be shown without a hitch. The museum shows about 400 performances a year involving 200 films.

The museum has set itself the task of educating the filmgoing public, and this governs its choice of programme.

This is why films are never presented singly but always as part of a series: for example all the films of one director (by the end of this year all the works of Ernst Lubitsch and of Japanese director Akira Kurosawa will have been shown) or all the films in which a certain actor or actress took part (the most recent example here was Mae West), thj works of emigré German directors, films of books, the Second World War in films etc.

For next year the museum plans a retrospective of American comedies of the 30s and 40s. *Birgit Krummacher*

(Die Welt, 19 November 1979)



■ MEDICINE

More cases of depression as a result of stress in an affluent world



The number of people in industrialised countries who have spells of depression is increasing all the time. The most disturbing feature is that more and more children are affected.

But the principal sufferers are between 40 and 50 in the so-called midlife crisis.

Several years ago the World Health Organisation estimated that 5 per cent of people in industrialised nations suffered from depression.

The incidence has risen dramatically since then, according to experts.

The symptoms of a socalled "open" depression are sadness and listlessness, lack of vigour and courage to carry on.

Doctors attribute the ailment to increased stress. They speak of a latent depression when physical symptoms appear.

Medicine differentiates between depression with physical causes, and that caused by outside circumstances.

Like classical psychology, medicine also distinguishes between "depressive moods", which are not regarded as an actual illness, and "depressive syndromes" which are an illness in clinical terms.

The phenomenon as a whole has been known since antiquity when it was termed "melancholia".

Even Hippocrates, the father of medicine, is said to have described melancholia.

Experts have known for some time that there is a particular type of person that is likely to become depressed, but so far medicine has not come up with an exact definition.

It is therefore not surprising that causes and effects are still the subject of dispute and that no ideal cure has been evolved. Drugs for instance, provide only temporary relief.

Psychologists Martin Hautzinger of the Psychology Institute of Berlin's Free University is now exploring new territory.

His theories are based on the assumption that depression is a universal phenomenon and part of the basic forms of human reaction.

Depressive moods he says, are familiar to all, and they do not fundamentally differ from clinical deperession. The difference is one of degree.

His objective is to help those who suffer from severe depression.

The unique thing about Herr Hautzinger is the way he is going about it: he questions people to find out how they cope with depression and to isolate those groups most at risk.

Almost 90 per cent of those asked admit to having been depressed at some time — and they come up with 269 remedies for the problem. These range from listening to music, seeking contact with other people and working, all the way to isolating oneself.

The interesting fact is that there were few consensus answers: not many remedies were used by more than a handful of people.

However, he was more successful when he asked people what they would not do during a depressed spell; "Staying alone, isolating myself and worrying."

The ratio of consensus answers to those shared only with a few other people was in both cases about 85 to 15.

Most interviewees considered their own remedies effective.

As a result, Martin Hautzinger believes he has been able to prove that there is a "collective knowledge" on how to cope with depression.

But which of the remedies the individual opts for is largely a subjective decision, though it also — to some extent — depends on the social situation.

After all, depressive reaction does not take place in a social vacuum.

The occurence and the overcoming of depressive moods, Herr Hautzinger holds, is largely codetermined by social and cultural elements.

It is this aspect where the Berlin psychologist sees a possibility of applying the results of his research with "normal people" to those who actually suffer from a depressive syndrome.

He says: "Social conditions of life have probably familiarised certain social groups with anti-depressive attitudes."

The next step will be to find out which social groups are not familiar with these strategies and are therefore prone to depression.

If he succeeds in doing so it should be possible to take preventive measures.

Herr Hautzinger wants to do this by fully fathoming man's ability to overcome depression, enabling him to identify risk groups.

He holds that it is possible and desirable to make more use of common everyday knowledge and attitudes in the treatment of the psychologically ill.

Justin Westhoff

(Der Tagesspiegel, 24 November 1979)

Double or nothing

Those who have had chicken pox as children should not be surprised if they come down with shingles in adult life.

It has long been known that both diseases are caused by the same virus. But researchers of the Virology Institute of Würzburg University have now found out that shingles never afflicts people who have not had chicken pox.

(Welt am Sonntag, 25 November 1979)

How it all began

Continued from page 10

not want a place, I wanted the highest place in the sphere of the drama, I wanted the olive branch for myself."

There is a whole world of difference between this and the account by Karin Petersen, the youngest of the authors in this anthology (born 1950).

She regards her writing as a kind of psychotherapeutic process with which she hopes to clarify and overcome" the misery of her relationships." She opposes her own egoism to the selv-centredness of a man and seeks support in doing so from a women's group, in which she is encouraged to productive self-realisation.

The look back at first works is sometimes very critical, as in the case of Siegfried Lenz' account of *Es waren Habichte in der Luft*. Sometimes the value of the earlier works is shown by the presentation enthusiastic reviews of the time (Luise Rinser). And there are sometimes attempts at défence, efforts to present unappreciated works in their true light (in the case of Fleisser and Martin Kessel).

Daiber's anthology is stimulating and highly readable. From the mosaic of articles we get an impression of the literary history of the past 100 years in which relations between authors and publishers, which often remain obscure, are clearly shown.

One could perhaps have wished for rather more precise references to where the texts come from and the autobiographical notes on some of the authors could have been more exhaustive.

But these are minor faults in an otherwise excellent book.

Jürgen Jacobs

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 27 November 1979)

Increase in children's stomach ulcers

Duodenal ulcers in children are more frequent than generally sumed.

There has been a marked increa the most telling symptom, sto ache, during the past few years.

Professor Werner Hüther told the nual congress of the Northwest Ge Pediatric Society in Wilhelmshaven stomach ulcers have also increased ceably.

Of the 12,800 children treated in Nordhorn Hospital between 1970 1979, 2,748 complained about abdom pain; 425 needed immediate surgery.

Of 2,315 children with stomache 200 were given a more thorough ex nation. Forty two either had duod ulcers or were suspected of having Five had stomach ulcers.

Professor Hüther deduced from that "about two per cent of chil with abdominal pain diagnosed as tional actually were certain to have duodenal ulcers."

He also found that 24 of the chil with certain or suspected ulcers, every second child, had parents grand-parents who had ulcers at le once in their lifetime.

His study also shows that the dis is slightly more frequent in boys. T thirds of the patients were under 10 fact which greatly surprised the doc

As a result, the possibility of u should be taken into account in cas abdominal pain, especially if the happens often.

Many an assumed "chronic appen tis" could easily turn out to be a g ine ulcer.

Unlike with adults, there is no s thing as a typical ulcer sufferer am children. Even healthy children, as served repeatedly by Professor Hüt can develop bleeding ulcers and must be counted as risk cases.

Like with adults, there is no unifo cause of ulcers in children. But, as grownups, modern civilisation toget with constitutional factors and increa psychological stress at school and home are likely to play an impor role.

Peter Dan

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 17 November 19

Skin disease still without cure

There is still no cure for a skin disease known as psoriasis, delegates to a conference have been told.

Psoriasis is, after eczema, the most common skin disease, but research into it is still in its infancy.

About 1.2m people in West Germany alone are affected, but only about 8,000 belong to the Psoriasis Society which was founded six years ago and has 30 regional groups.

The reason that more don't belong, the conference was told, is that many people try to hide the fact that they have the disease.

The 500 delegates from all parts of Europe exchanged medical information and discussed the social care of sufferers. World-wide, some 80m people have the disease, the Congress was told 2 per cent of the world's population.

It is, however, considered certain that the disease is not contageous and not hereditary.

But no-one has been able to isolate its cause or cure it.

Psoriasis comes out of the blue. It is unconnected with age and it can affect some people for a lifetime and others for just months or years.

Sufferers come up in large red spots covering the whole body, including the scalp, causing an itch.

The disease is most frequent in the spring and autumn, though it often occurs after an injection, a feverish ment or even stress situations.

So far, all efforts have only been to provide temporary relief.

In a resolution passed at the Co gress, the Psoriasis Society called what they called "elimination of dis mination" against the sufferers. Se cases are to receive full official recog tion as "disabled" in legal terms.

The national health system and pr vate health insurance companies w called upon to pay for treatment the time the symptoms occur rath than when they start going away.

They were also called upon to pay treatment abroad.

And, finally, the Society demand that the government provide enou money for research.

(Nordwest Zeitung, 16 November 19

■ LEISURE

Why some prefer a back garden sun tan

People stay at home during their holidays for many reasons: some are not able mentally to face change; others have fears about improbable events; and others just don't have enough money.

Experts in the tourist and leisure fields thrashed out the reasoning behind the stay-at-homes at a meeting in Loccum but, because of the welter of evidence, were not able to agree on anything conclusive.

Delegates heard that holidays at home are more relaxing, especially for older people. Holidays at home are a chance to achieve greater self-knowledge. Holidays at home are not valuable as long as our flats, towns, parks, clubs and relationships remain as they are now.

In 1978, 25.8 million Germans took holidays lasting longer than five days. Most of them took their holidays in the months of June, July and August. The most popular holiday goals were: Bavaria, Austria, Spain and Italy. Holidaymakers' aims are to relax, have a change of environment and impressions, meet new people. Over 90 per cent of holidaymakers described their holidays as very good or good. Were they really as good as all that?

Doctors say that on holiday we consciously or unconsciously upset our own biological rhythms. The change of climate, long flights, strange food, heavy drinking, sunbathing have little to do with relaxation. Then there are the conflicts in the family due to cramped conditions in cars, in caravans and in small hotel rooms. A holiday at home, on the other hand, is an opportunity to relax completely. There is no flood of impressions that cannot be digested, no false expectations and hopes that cannot be fulfilled. No one is overtaxed and there is leisure for creative activities. So why go somewhere far away?

As long as housewives have to do the housework, as long as the financial means of making holidays at home more attractive are not available, the quality of home holidays seems more theoretical, and it is cynical to console those who stay at home with the argument that there are lots of nice things to do at home.

In practice, home holidays are nothing like what the theorists claim. During the holidays, theatres and concert halls are closed (Hanover with its music and theatre festival in Herrenhausen is a notable exception here), TV only shows repeats, there is no football, holiday activities are only offered for children, it is forbidden to walk on the lawns. Visits to the zoo and outdoor swimming pools cost money. There are not enough leisure activities.

Travel agents say that flats, houses and towns will have to be redesigned, planned anew. In the year 2000 holidays in the present form will no longer be possible. Then there will be a billion holidaymakers worldwide. In 20 years time staying at home must not be seen as a necessary evil, it will have to be made into an acceptable alternative — otherwise holidays will have to be allocated.

Some towns already offer holiday programmes. Children paint in museums, adults visit mines in the Ruhr, senior citizens go on coach tours to the Weserbergland, in Pinneberg and Hamburg family leisure activities at the weekend were held for four months. But isn't this still second best, just a substitute for the real thing? It is only the person who has already seen everything who stays at home of his own free will these days.

Behavioural scientists say that mobility is primarily the expression of an attitude of mind and only secondarily a habit. Everyone wishes to travel but this wish can only be realised when inhibitions such as the fear of meeting strange people in a strange environment can be overcome. Lack of money is not always the reason for spending holidays at home. Communication difficulties are another factor, some people have their doubts about travelling at all, doing not-

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(Cartoon: Tomaschoff / Welt am Sonntag)

■ SOCIETY

High cost for mothers who go to prison

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Five years ago, Isolde M. was sentenced to 32 months in prison for fraud.

When she entered Aichach, she left behind her children, two girls and a boy.

Her papers were checked, she was issued prison garb, then checked for any hidden objects on her body. This was followed by a shower and the issuing of her prison number.

Isolde M. remembers: "It wasn't until I had to undress that I became conscious of the fact that I had not only left my home, my job and my children but also the woman I once was."

For her, the position of the children was much worse than her own, for they, too, were "locked up," as she puts it.

Because they refused to "become integrated," the two girls were moved from their respective government homes to closed institutions.

Later, Isolde M. had to sign a paper of consent committing her older daughter Sabine, to a psychiatric ward.

Sabine ran away repeatedly and was subsequently locked up in a series of institutions where she was the youngest of the most hardened cases.

Isolde M.: "The girls were in a difficult phase of their development. One became a drug addict and both constantly talked of doing away with themselves. They couldn't come to terms with the fact that their mother was in jail."

When Isolde M. was first arrested, Sabine threatened to jump out of the window. She had already made several suicide attempts, and others were to follow.

"I had to live with the knowledge of it for months in my prison cell — knowing that there was nothing I could do."

Her cell, only 8.6 square metres, had a lavatory behind the door, next to it a small wash basin, a closet, a cot with a foam rubber mattress, a folding table and a folding chair. That was all.

The door had a hatch for food and above it a little spyhole.

The walls were plain, the one facing the outside had a tiny window, part of which opened just enough for air. A thick pipe from floor to ceiling was connected to the radiator.

Some prisoners, says Isolde M., used to tie plastic bags filled with water to the pipe to heat water for coffee.

The evenings were devoted to letter writing. But, of course, the mail was censored.

Frau M. remembers: "I wrote countless letters to my children in the various homes, but I only received replies if something bad had happened."

Theoretically, children may visit their mothers once a month for 30 minutes.

But there is a vast difference between theory and practice. Mostly, the children cannot raise the fares, and for those in institutions there is often no-one to accompany them. Moreover, the other children are not supposed to know that mother is in jail.

Isolde M.: "My son visited me once early on, having hitch-hiked to Aichach. For a while, my daughters didn't want to have anything to do with me because they blamed me for for all they had to suffer."

Later, as the girls began to understand their mother more, they were too far away from Aichach to visit regularly, and then Sabine was locked up in another prison.

"To learn anything at all about how the children of imprisoned mothers are doing we have to write to the institutions" wardens and ask for a report," says Charlotte von Mecklenburg, a social worker for a Catholic welfare organisation in Munich. She and her colleagues visit the woman at Aichach prison regularly; they talk to them, listening to their problems (mostly about children). They also contact the authorities or families that are looking after the children.

Frau von Mecklenburg: "We and our Protestant colleagues are busy all the time, and yet what we can do is too little to keep former family ties intact."

All these social workers and the warden of Aichach prison, Wolfgang Deuschel, as well as the prison psychologist, Elisabeth Meyer, agree: "Those who really get punished are the children of a woman who has to do time."

There are 298 woman (the youngest is 16) in Aichach. Three are lifers. Their crimes range from petty larceny and fraud via dealing in stolen property, armed robbery and child battering all the way to murder.

If the mother of an infant or a pregnant woman has to serve time, she may keep her child with her in prison if the sentence is no more than three years.

Ten of the mothers in Aibach have their children with them. Boys and girls have their own wards, separate from the cells. The mothers may visit their children three times a day.

Infants are in a special baby ward with rows of small beds like in a maternity ward. Next door there is a play and day room for older children.

There in a 30-square-metre room, one to three-year-olds play in barren surroundings containing three small tables and a locker for toys. The windows are barred and the doors locked.



A mother in prison looks after her baby. (Photo: Ursula [illegible])

On nice days, the warders unlock the outside doors while the children watch, fascinated by the clanging of the outsized keys. On such occasions, the children play in the prison yard.

Occasionally, Cornelia Kricheldorff, an Aichach social worker and herself mother of a one-year-old daughter, takes the prisoners' children to spend a weekend with her family, "so that they can see automobiles, houses, animals and — above all — a man," as she puts it.

But children may only stay with their mothers in prison if the youth authorities, psychologists and the prison warden think that it will help the child. The fact that the mother would like to have her child near her is of no consequence.

Psychologist Meyer: "As a rule, the maximum time children are permitted to stay at the prison is three years. Once they are older they absorb too much of the atmosphere, which is not good for them."

And Wolfgang Deuschel says that it does not normally happen that a child is separated from his imprisoned mother on turning three. Instead, every effort is made to reduce the mother's sentence so that she can leave prison together with the child.

If the mother's sentence is long and this cannot be done, the youth authorities try to come up with some other solution, either a foster home or a government institution or adoption.

Says Warden Deuschel: "It is good that many of our prisoners can be with their children, but they don't develop a genuine sense of responsibility, knowing that there are other people who will jump into the breach."

Moreover, the minimal visiting hours make it almost impossible for the children to develop any ties with the father — if there is a father — says prison psychologist Elisabeth Meyer. As a result prison life lays the foundation for usually insoluble problems after release.

Herbert is 20 months old. His 26-year-old mother was a drug pusher. Mother and child have been together in Aichach for four months. The boy's [illegible]-year-old brother, Robert, lives with the mother's parents.

Traudl, the mother says: "Robert simply does not understand why his little brother may stay with me while he may not. Originally, my parents told him that I was in hospital."

Robert had just turned nine when his mother was granted her first parole for Christmas. She wanted to tell the boy where she really was. But this was impossible because the child did not know the meaning of the word "prison". His mother told him that some people are locked up because they steal and that she had sold drugs.

Anna L., mother of four, is also in Aichach. She was convicted of child battering and of having caused irreparable damage in the process. Sentenced to [illegible] months, she was stripped of her parental rights, and since she is an alien, she must expect to be deported after serving her term.

She says: "I deserved to be put in prison, and that isn't even all that bad. But I can't bear the idea of having to leave Germany and of never again seeing my children. I love them, after all. They're all I have ... but no-one believes me because I did such a horrible thing. I can't tell you why I did it."

Isolde M sums up her story. "When I was arrested, I had to leave behind three children. When I came back found three strangers. They destroyed my girls in correctional institutions and in the mental asylums."

One of Isolde M.'s daughters now works as what is officially known as a "barmaid". "From what I can see, I am pretty sure that she, too, will wind up in Aichach."

Sonja Weber

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 18 November 1979)

Back garden sun tans

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hing is regarded as something forbidden. Some people cannot get rid of the everyday norms of punctuality and efficiency. Mobility is a process of learning.

Why then do people stay at home for their holidays? Statistics from the Starnberg Tourism Study Group give some clues:

In 1978, 20.1 million Germans did not go on holiday at all and of these 8 million have never been on holiday. The reasons they gave for this were: no money, no time, home was the best place to relax, it was more confortable at home, travelling alone was no fun, the preparations for holidays were too much trouble and it was difficult to make contacts.

Statistically, the typical stay at-home-holidaymaker is Catholic, has an elementary school education, low income, no car, no house, no knowledge of languages. He is older, a widower or divorced, lives in a village in Bavaria or Baden-Württemberg and lives in a family of four. He goes on less fewer trips than the away from home holidaymaker, plays less sport, walks less and is generally less active. It is hardly surprising that only 15 per cent of those who stayed at home were satisfied with their holidays.

So holidays at home still seem to be more of a misery than an opportunity. And that cannot just be because of the poor weather. The experts at the Loccum conference called for teachers for leisure time. They are clearly badly needed. The question is: can leisure be taught and learnt?

Barbara Uecker

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 16 November 1979)

■ SPORT

Frankfurt tournament attracts the top tennis stars, including Borg

Bjorn Borg, Jimmy Connors, John McEnroe, Vitas Gerulaitis, Peter Fleming, Ilie Nastase, Adriano Panatta and Uli Pinner are the stars competing for this year's $240,000 Frankfurt Cup.

They make an impressive array of centre court talent, headed of course by four-time Wimbledon winner Björn Borg.

It is the first time the Swedish superstar and world's No. 1 seed has ever played in the Rhine-Main area.

But Borg, a 23-year-old tennis multimillionaire, is only too happy to include Frankfurt in the circuit. So are the others.

The prize money takes some beating at an individual tournament.

ATP world ratings or WCT world championship qualifying games may not be at stake, but as Borg disarmingly and convincingly puts it: "I always play to win."

But what is the sporting value of the Frankfurt Cup as an invitation tournament? Last year, when promoter Hans Rainer Burkert first brought the stars to Frankfurt, 22,000 fans saw some sparkling tennis.

There were teething troubles, though, due partly to the weather, partly to organisational mishaps. Jimmy Connors, for instance, refused to play a match as the clock neared midnight.

But the fans were delighted by Nastase's victory over Connors. There were no suggestions that Connors was taking his beating lying down or that the result had been in any way prearranged.

There were other matches well worth seeing too, and even the final, in which Nastase beat Gerulaitis in what at times was a blend of sport and show business, was a sight for sore eyes.

The only real blot on the escutcheon was the doubles final, in which Wojtek Fibak, partnered with Tom Okker, was all too clearly taking it easy to make sure he finished in time to catch a flight to Australia.

But the organisers withheld his cheque in retaliation, and he is still waiting for it.

This time there will be no doubles, and the singles players will not be resting on their laurels.

The winner will take home $60,000, the losing finalist $45,000, the third placed each $40,000 and so on, right down to the tail end of the table, which is still worth $8,000.



Bjorn Borg — Jimmy Connors (Photo: dpa)

What is more, the 1979 Frankfurt Cup is a publicity run-up for the first official WCT singles tournament in Germany, in Frankfurt next March.

"An official tournament has always been my aim," says promoter Burkert, a Frankfurt businessman.

"That was why I held to first two invitation tournaments in the city."

His bid seems assured of success now that Connors, McEnroe, Tanner and Vilas have agreed to take part in a WCT qualifying tournament.

Thirty-two players compete in the various qualifying rounds, and the Frankfurt winner will qualify for the WCT world championships in Dallas, Texas.

Tennis stars well know what they must do to keep happy those fans who are prepared to pay between DM25 and DM70 for a stand ticket.

If they fail to come up with the performances expected of them they will ruin a perfectly good tournament that would otherwise have been a regular source of income.

Borg, Connors and McEnroe are the three best players in the world, with Borg so far having the best record. But McEnroe's challenge is meteoric.

Connors too is determined to rehabilitate himself after a poor showing last year.

Connors faces a challenge

McEnroe, who incidentally was born about 20 years ago in Wiesbaden, where his father was stationed with the US Air Force, could well challenge Connors as finalist from his group.

Peter Fleming, seeded No. 12 internationally, shares with McEnroe the doubles world championship title and is not to be underestimed as a singles players either.

It will be interesting to see how Germany's leading player, Uli Pinner, who ranks 23rd in the world ratings, will fare.

In the other group Borg is clear favourite. His closest challenger is likely to be Vitas Gerulaitis, the New York-based No. 5, but Italy's Adriano Panatta, ranked 25th, is almost as superb a technician as Nastase.

Nastase delighted the Frankfurt fans last year, and although he may not repeat his last year's victory he is still one of the most outstanding attractions in the game.

Dieter Hochgesand

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 29 November 1979)

Mixed feelings about professional influence in showjumping

West German showjumpers have mixed feelings about the growing number of professionals in the game. Pros are automatically disqualified as Olympic entrants and rivals for medal honours.

Top-rank British horsemen such as world champion David Broome, Derek Ricketts and Harvey Smith started the ball rolling by abandoning their doubtful amateur status.

They have since been joined by a number of European and American horsemen who have voluntarily chosen to forgo the Olympics.

They include Nelson Pessoa of Brazil, Eddie Macken of Ireland and Henk Nooren, the leading Dutch showjumper.

Nooren's decision, the latest in the series, puts paid to the Dutch equestrian team at the Moscow Olympics as originally envisaged.

The British team, which won the European championship title at Rotterdam, has forfeited the right to copmpete in Moscow. The Irish have long been handicapped in this way.

The German team's prospects of an Olympic gold have improved markedly, yet team members do not sound unduly enthusiastic.

"It will not necessarily be all that magnificent to have won at Moscow, only to hear people say: 'Ah well, the best riders were missing,'" says Paul Schockemöhle.

"The amateur regulations are stuff and nonsense," says Gerd Wiltfang. "They ought to allow the best to enter for the Olympics."

Britain's Caroline Bradley smiles politely. "I manage quite well without the Games, thank you," she says. *dpa*

(Die Welt, 29 November 1979)